

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Malaysia
Truly Asia





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Cultures in Harmony

Malaysia is a melting pot of people from various races.

Its population consists of an interesting mix of Malay, Chinese, Indian, Eurasian, Sikh, Iban, Kadazan, Peranakan and other ethnic communities. Despite the *mélange* of cultures and traditions, mutual respect and tolerance are the qualities that bind all Malaysians together.

The diversity of cultures in Malaysia is evident in the colourful spectrum of traditions, festivals and cuisines. Islam is the official religion; however, other religions are practised freely. People from various races and cultural backgrounds practise Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Sikhism and other faiths.

This multiracial population has given rise to many places of worship. Mosques, Buddhist and Taoist temples, Indian and Sikh temples, Thai wats and churches of different denominations dot the streets of Malaysia. It is not impossible to find, within the same area, various religious houses attesting to different faiths. Interestingly, there are places where a mosque, Buddhist temple, Hindu temple, a church and Sikh temple co-exist on the same street, if not side by side.

These streets have been nicknamed the “Street of Religious Harmony” and some have existed for 100 years. Among such places are Jalan Masjid Kapitan Kling in Penang, Jalan Tokong and Jalan Tukang Emas in Melaka, Jalan Yam Tuan and Jalan Dato’ Bandar Tunggal in Negeri Sembilan as well as Brickfields in Kuala Lumpur.

With so many cultures co-existing in harmony within its shores, Malaysia naturally boasts a myriad of festivals celebrated throughout the year. The major festivals are Aidilfitri (Eid-ur-Fitr), Chinese New Year, Deepavali, Christmas, Vasakhi, Gawai Dayak and Tadau Ka’amatan.

During these festivals, Malaysians practice a concept called ‘open house’, an occasion to receive well-wishers. There will be feasting and merry-making as everyone partakes in the gaiety of the occasion. Malaysians of all races and religions join in the festivities.

This brochure features some of the iconic places of worship that grace the skyline, as well as places of worship that are unique in terms of architecture or history. Several of these places of worship are known throughout the world for their festivals.

Let the journey begin!

MAGNIFICENT MOSQUES



ARCHITECTURAL GRANDEUR OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD

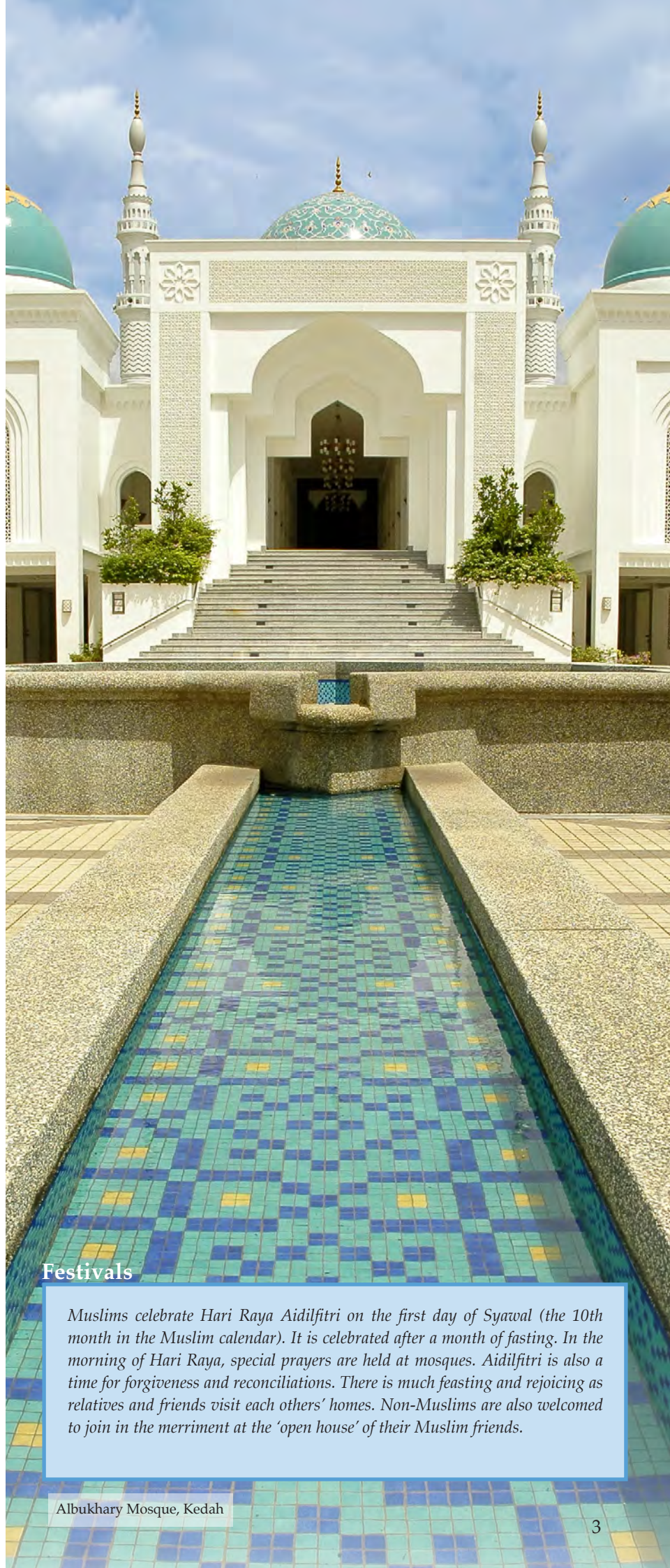
In Malaysia, visitors will find a modern and progressive approach to Islam. Take a tour around the country to appreciate the beautiful Islamic crafts, arts and architecture. The architectural styles of the mosques in Malaysia are diversified. Some are inspired by great mosques of the world, while others are built according to the traditional architecture of a Malay house.

Many mosques in Malaysia showcase local elements and motifs. The design of a mosque can indicate the period in which it was built.

Islam reached the Malay Peninsula in the 13th century when Arab traders visited Melaka for spices and gold. Muslim missionaries followed and by the 15th century, the Melaka sultanate had embraced Islam. Islam was disseminated to other parts of the Malay Peninsula when the Melaka Empire expanded. Mosques were built in various parts of the land.

Today, there are mosques in every city and town in the country. The call to prayer by the muezzin, “*Allahu Akhbar, Allahu Akhbar*”, (God is Great, God is Great) can be heard miles away from mosques throughout the country, five times a day. During the early days, the traditional *beduk* (a kind of drum) was used to call people for prayer.

The architectural styles of the mosques have demonstrated splendid growth, making a visit to the mosques an educational and enlightening experience. Tourists, including non-Muslims, can visit the mosques in Malaysia.



Festivals

Muslims celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri on the first day of Syawal (the 10th month in the Muslim calendar). It is celebrated after a month of fasting. In the morning of Hari Raya, special prayers are held at mosques. Aidilfitri is also a time for forgiveness and reconciliations. There is much feasting and rejoicing as relatives and friends visit each others' homes. Non-Muslims are also welcomed to join in the merriment at the 'open house' of their Muslim friends.



Kuala Lumpur

There are numerous mosques in Kuala Lumpur, each with a different architectural style and identity. Among the most visited and picturesque mosques in the capital city are the National Mosque, the Jamek Mosque, the Wilayah Mosque and the As-Syakirin Mosque.

This mosque was designed by A.B. Hubback, a British Government architect. Famed for its Moorish architecture, the mosque has a main dome flanked by two smaller domes and a prayer hall that opens out to a walled courtyard. Its 26.8-metre minarets rise from the two corners of the courtyard.

The National Mosque, locally known as Masjid Negara, is located at Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin. Completed in 1965, the mosque has a unique design that reflects traditional Islamic art, calligraphy and decoration. The main dome takes the shape of an opened umbrella with 18 points representing the 13 states of Malaysia and the five pillars of Islam. Standing prominently against the skyline is the 73-metre high minaret which resembles a closed umbrella. The mosque is situated in the vicinity of several tourist attractions such as the Islamic Arts Museum, KL Lake Gardens, National Monument and the National Planetarium.

Though the Wilayah Mosque is one of the newest in Kuala Lumpur, it is fast becoming a popular destination for tourists. The mosque has 23 domes designed after the Ottoman mosque in Turkey. A computerised technique was used to design the ornate outer cladding of the mosque. The main dome, standing at 30 metres in height, features mosaic tiles with floral motifs inspired by Safavid mosques in Isfahan.

The Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) is one of the most popular tourist spots in the city. Within this prestigious shopping zone, stands the beautiful As-Syakirin Mosque. Its structure is adorned with delicate and intricate Islamic art, created by skilled craftsmen from Uzbekistan. Against the glittering backdrop of the Petronas Twin Towers, the mosque's 45-metre minaret and dome create a splendid sight.

Built in 1909, the Jamek Mosque is the city's oldest surviving mosque. It occupies a historic location at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang rivers, the birth place of Kuala Lumpur.

- a Wilayah Mosque, Kuala Lumpur
- b As-Syakirin Mosque, Kuala Lumpur
- c National Mosque, Kuala Lumpur
- d Jamek Mosque, Kuala Lumpur

Putrajaya

Since its completion in 1999, the Putra Mosque has been one of the most photographed buildings in the country. Overlooking the scenic Putra Lake, this mosque showcases Persian architecture from the Safavid era. The domes are graced with tiles in shades of pink.

The 116-metre high minaret is divided into five levels to represent the five pillars of Islam. Enjoy a lake cruise to take in the beauty of Putra Mosque as well as other buildings in the vicinity. Putrajaya is Malaysia's administrative hub. It is situated about an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur.

Selangor

The majestic Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque is an iconic attraction in Selangor. It is popularly known as 'the Blue Mosque' for its stunning blue exterior. Situated at the heart of Shah Alam, the state capital of Selangor, the mosque is a beautiful sight both by day and night. This mosque is inspired by the Ottoman mosque in Turkey.

It boasts one of the world's biggest domes, measuring 56 metres in diameter. Its minarets are also among the tallest in the world. The mosque's roof is made of steel with a vitreous enamel finishing.

Built in 1918, the Sultan Alaeddin Mosque is the oldest in Selangor. It dominates the surrounding countryside with its graceful dome and attractive Moorish architecture. Visitors will be mesmerised by the impeccable wood carving of the *mimbar* (pulpit). The mosque is located in Kampung Bandar, Kuala Langat.

Festivals

Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Haji is celebrated 70 days after Hari Raya Aidilfitri to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice. The festival also marks the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah. The highlight of the festival is the sacrifice of cattle, after which the meat is distributed to the poor.



- a Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque, Selangor (Blue Mosque)
- b Sultan Alaeddin Mosque, Selangor
- c Putra Mosque, Putrajaya



a Indian Muslim Mosque, Perak

b Ubudiah Mosque, Perak



Perak

Northwards from Selangor lies the state of Perak. There are a number of mosques within the vicinity of its capital city, Ipoh. The State Mosque is one of the most prominent landmarks in the city. An outstanding feature here is its minaret that rises 38 metres above the mosaic domes. There is also the Indian Muslim Mosque, which serves as the main mosque for the Indian-Muslim community. It is commonly known as the 'Town Padang Mosque'. Built in 1908, the mosque has unique arches, a result of the influence from the 'Chitya Indian' and Moghul-style architecture. Nearby is the Pakistani Mosque.

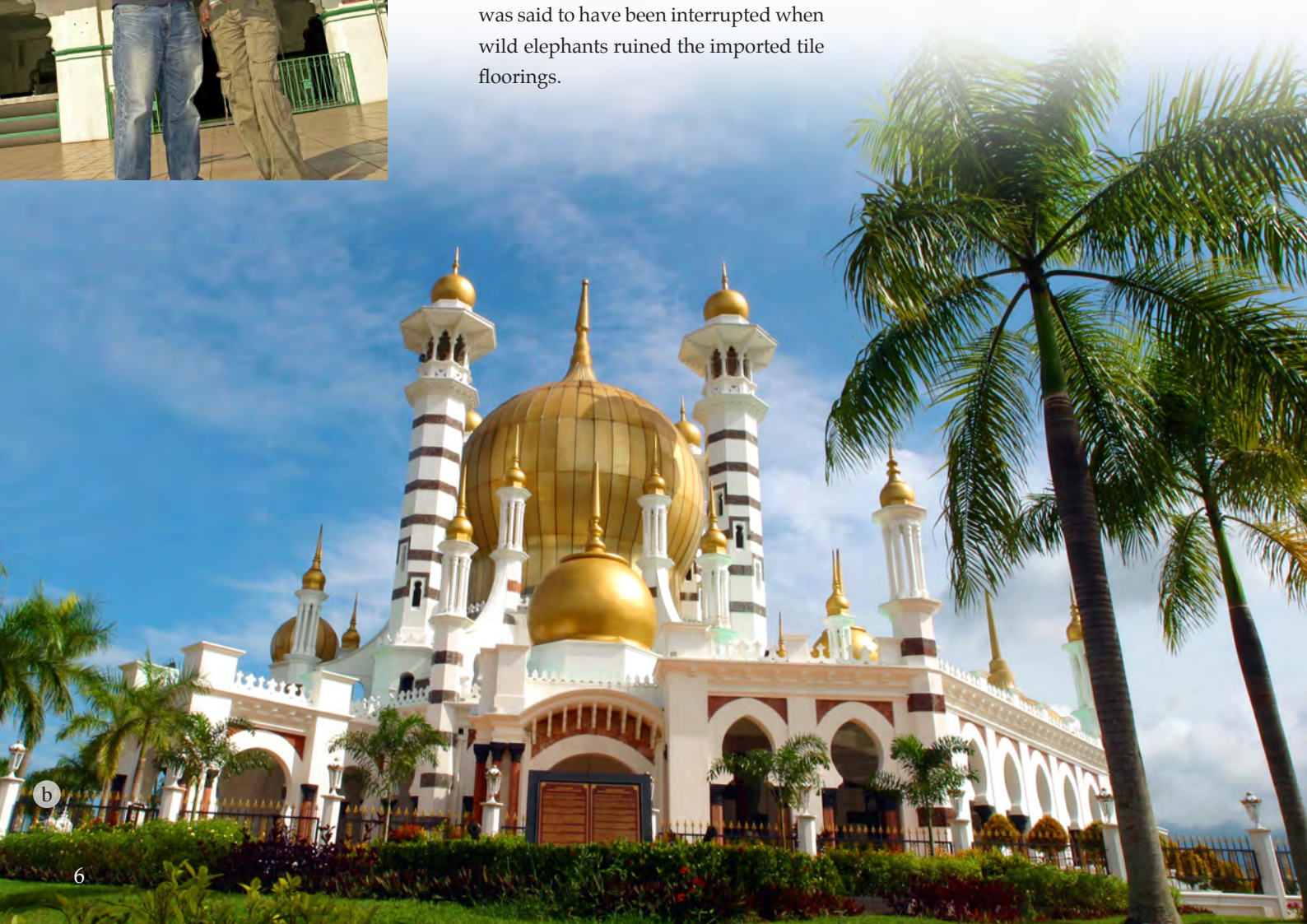
Take a trip to the royal town of Kuala Kangsar where one of the most beautiful historical landmarks, the Ubudiah Mosque, is situated. Its magnificent golden domes and minarets are hallmarks of classical Islamic architecture. Though its construction commenced in 1913, the mosque was only opened in 1917. The construction was said to have been interrupted when wild elephants ruined the imported tile floorings.

Penang

Hailed as 'the Pearl of the Orient', the beautiful island resort of Penang is known for a myriad of attractions. Home to a mélange of cultures, Penang beckons visitors with a number of mosques that are unique and interesting. The mosques here exhibit various design elements, owing to the influence of Muslim merchants from Java, India and Pakistan.

An example of such mosque is the Acheen Street Malay Mosque, also known as Masjid Melayu. The mosque traces its origins to 1792 when its founder Tengku Syed Hussain Aidid, a member of the royal family of Aceh, settled in Penang.

The architecture of the mosque incorporates and reflects the various communities in Penang – the Achehnese, Anglo-Indian and Chinese. Special features include its octahedral pagoda-shaped minaret and the swallow-tailed roof.





a



b



c

In 1999, the mosque received the “Restoration and Preservation Award” from the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education in recognition of its extensive restoration works.

Built in 1801, the Kapitan Keling Mosque is the state’s oldest. Located at Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, the mosque features an ochre-coloured façade and a dome-shaped minaret reflecting the Moorish Islamic influence. It was named after the Indian Muslim merchant, the Kapitan Keling (headman) Cadeer Mohudeen.

The elegant, modern Penang State Mosque took four years to be built, before its completion in 1980. It features a concentric ring of reinforced concrete ribs. Crowning the top is a golden onion-shaped dome. The mosque is located at the junction of Jalan Air Itam and Green Lane.

Visitors to Penang should not miss a trip to Tanjung Bungah, one of the most scenic beaches on the island. A special attraction here is the Floating Mosque which was completed in 2005. Built on concrete stilts with foundations reaching the sea bed, the mosque is acclaimed as Malaysia’s first floating mosque situated by the sea.

It showcases a beautifully designed exterior as well as a stunning interior, with stained glass and carved motifs lining the interior walls and ceilings. The main dome of the mosque measures around 28 metres. The mosque boasts a seven-storey minaret and an open space for people to enjoy the view of the sunset and the open sea.

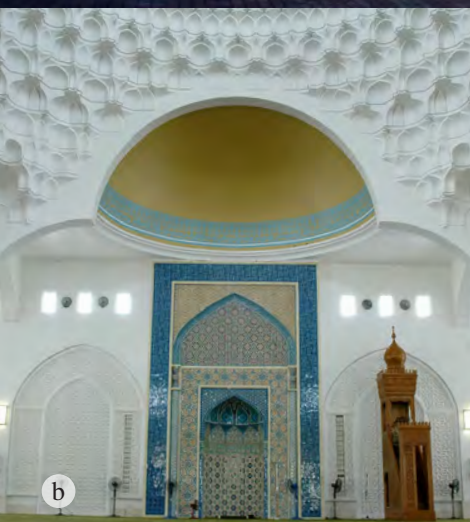
Festivals

Maal Hijrah marks the start of a new Islamic calendar year. It also commemorates Prophet Muhammad’s pilgrimage from Makkah to Madinah.



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- a Acheen Street Mosque, Penang
- b State Mosque, Penang
- c Kapitan Keling Mosque, Penang
- d Reciting the Holy Al-Quran



Kedah

The Zahir Mosque in Alor Setar, the state capital of Kedah, is truly a resplendent sight. It was voted as one of the world's top 10 most beautiful mosques some years ago.

Built in 1912 and officially opened in 1915 by His Royal Highness the Sultan of Kedah, this mosque has the distinction of being one of the oldest in the country.

It has a grand black dome, and five smaller domes that represent the five pillars of Islam. The architecture of this mosque resembles mosques in Langkat, North Sumatera.

Masjid Zahir is situated a stone's throw from places of interest such as the

Big Clock Building and Balai Nobat. Standing impressively beside the Souq Albukhary shopping mall in Alor Setar is the Albukhary Mosque. Its design is inspired by a number of prominent mosques in the Middle East.

The minaret is modelled after the Nabawi Mosque in Madinah while its *mihrab* reflects Iranian design elements found during the era of Sheikh Abu Samad.

Bold geometric patterns in pleasant hues of blue and white render the Albukhary Mosque an irresistible appeal. The mosque can accommodate up to 15,000 worshippers at one time.

a

Zahir Mosque, Kedah

b

Albukhary Mosque, Kedah

Perlis

In Perlis, Malaysia's northernmost state, two of the most visited mosques are the Alwi Mosque in Kangar and the Arau Mosque in Arau.

The Alwi Mosque was built in 1910. This former state mosque has a classic design and affords very interesting views. The architecture of the Arau Mosque is also impressive and eye-catching. The mosque can accommodate up to 7,000 people for prayers.

Festivals

Maulidur Rasul is celebrated to commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. The celebrations include special prayers and a procession led by religious leaders.

Kelantan

A number of 18th century mosques make a visit to the state of Kelantan interesting and awe-inspiring. Many mosques here are built in accordance with design elements of a traditional Malay house.

Some mosques are built on stilts and constructed with timber, clay tiles and thatched roofs. A fine example is the Kampung Laut Mosque in Nilam Puri, about 10km south of Kota Bharu. Built about 500 years ago, it is said to be the country's oldest mosque.

This mosque was built entirely of *cengal* (a Malaysian hardwood) and constructed without the use of any nails. Originally built along the banks of Sungai Kelantan (Kelantan River) the mosque was relocated after it was badly damaged by floods in 1966. It was rebuilt at the present site in 1968.

- a Al-Muhammadi Mosque, Kelantan
- b Arau Mosque, Perlis
- c Alwi Mosque, Perlis





Another classic example of a traditional mosque is the Kampung Langgar Mosque in Kota Bahru. Built in 1870, the mosque has an elongated structure with a length that is almost twice its width. It has a three-tiered roof and the roof tiles are believed to have originated from southern China.

An interesting feature here is that the mosque has no minaret and uses the traditional *beduk* to call for prayers, just like in the olden days.

Situated at Jalan Sultanah Zainab in Kota Bharu, the Al-Muhammadi Mosque or Kelantan State Mosque is deeply associated with the state's history. It was originally a wooden mosque which was built near Sungai Budor (Budor River) in the 1830s. The mosque was relocated and the construction of the existing main building took about 10 years before it was completed in 1926.

The Al-Muhammadi Mosque was named after the late Sultan Muhammad IV who contributed greatly to the state. In the past, Kelantan was famed for Islamic missionary activities and religious studies. Respected and well-known religious scholars such as Tuan Taba and Tok Kenali carried out their teachings here.

As students from around the region gathered here, the Al-Muhammadi Mosque became the centre for religious education.

After studying in Kelantan, the students will pursue their education in Makkah. This resulted in the state being hailed as "the Corridor of Makkah".

Terengganu

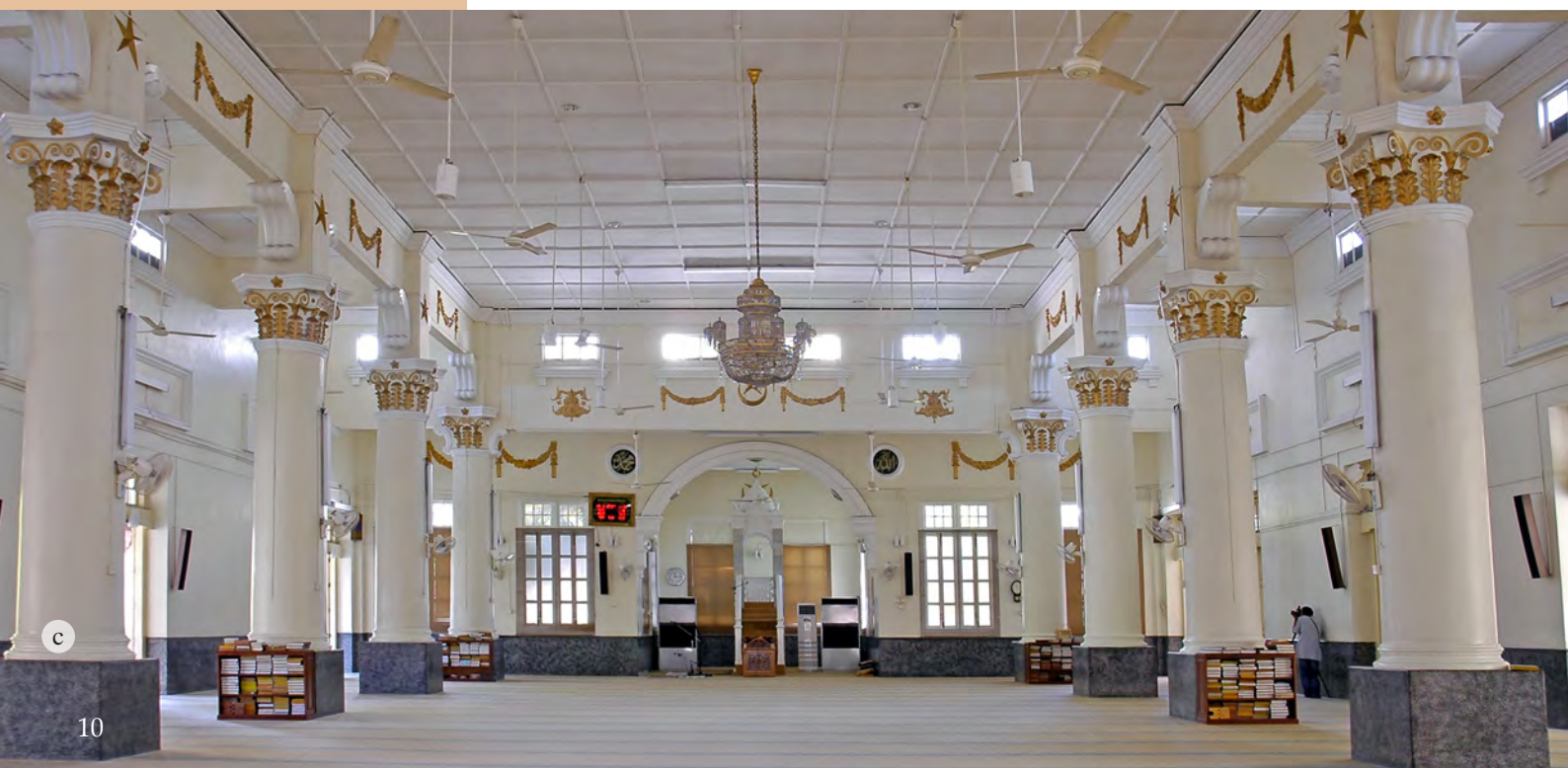
A must-visit destination in Terengganu is the Tengku Tengah Zaharah Mosque, also known as the Floating Mosque. Built in 1994, it is set against the estuary of Sungai Ibai (Ibai River), 6km from Kuala Terengganu. The mosque showcases a combination of Moorish and modern architectural elements.

Special features of the mosque include the calligraphy of verses from the Holy Quran as well as its arabesques, which are carved onto its entrance and the grills. The river water rises during high tide and submerges the foundation of the mosque, thus creating an illusion of a floating mosque. Try viewing the mosque and its reflection in the water at night. It is stunning!

The Crystal Mosque is the newest landmark in Kuala Terengganu and one of the biggest attractions in the country.



- a Kampung Langgar Mosque, Kelantan
- b Kampung Laut Mosque, Kelantan
- c A tranquil praying hall





The mosque is the centre piece of the Islamic Civilisation Park in Pulau Wan Man. Made of crystal glass with a steel foundation, the floating mosque glows and glitters like an expensive jewel along the banks of Sungai Terengganu (Terengganu River).

Set within 55 acres of land, the Islamic Civilisation Park features replicas of 21 famous mosques and monuments from around the world, including the Masjidil Haram of Saudi Arabia, Xian Mosque of China, the Alhambra Palace of Spain and the Taj Mahal of India.

For those who appreciate old buildings, the ancient Abidin Mosque at Kampung Masjid in Kuala Terengganu would be of interest. The mosque was originally a timber structure built between 1793 and 1808. It was replaced by a brick structure and later extended with three round pillars and minarets. The mosque used to be known as the White Mosque or the Big Mosque.



a Crystal Mosque, Terengganu.

b Tengku Tengah Zaharah Mosque, Terengganu





Pahang

Being the largest mosque in Pahang with minarets that are 180 feet high, the Sultan Ahmad Shah 1 Mosque is definitely one of Kuantan's most prominent landmarks.

The mosque is adorned with blue and white decorations. Its interior is set with marbles and it features yellow and blue stained glass windows. It is located at Jalan Masjid near the Wisma Sri Pahang building.

Negeri Sembilan

The State Mosque of Negeri Sembilan has a distinctive architecture that sets it apart from other mosques in the country.

It has nine pillars which represent the nine provinces of the state. Each pillar has a crescent on it. Strategically located at Jalan Dato' Hamzah within the beautiful Seremban Lake Gardens, this mosque is a major attraction for tourists.

Melaka

Mosques in Melaka exhibit various design influences, a testament to its rich and colourful past as a 16th century maritime trading centre that attracted merchants from around the region.

Among the mosques that showcase foreign influences are the Kampung Hulu Mosque, Kampung Kling Mosque and Tengkeri Mosque.

The Kampung Hulu Mosque was built in 1728. This building is fairly unusual for a mosque, inspired by the Sumatran architecture. The roof consists of three levels and its dome is made of carved sea stones. Instead of minarets, there is only one tall tower, structured like a pagoda.

Located in Chinatown, the Kampung Kling Mosque is one of the most distinctive landmarks in Melaka. Built in 1748, the Sumatran-style building features a watch tower-cum-minaret and a multi-tiered roof which is commonly found in Indian architecture.

- a Kampung Kling Mosque, Melaka
- b Sultan Ahmad Shah 1 Mosque, Pahang
- c Tengkeri Mosque, Melaka
- d State Mosque, Negeri Sembilan

However, some believe that it was structured after the Chinese pagoda. Interestingly, the arcade around the prayer hall features a series of Corinthian columns, reflecting European influence.

Just two kilometres outside of Melaka city is the famous Tengkerah Mosque. Built in 1728, the mosque is built in an unusual rectangular shape. It has a three-tiered, pagoda-like structure instead of the normal dome. Intricate carvings and designs fill the interior and exterior of the mosque.

Johor

Johor, Malaysia's southern gateway, is reputed to have one of the most beautiful mosques in Malaysia. The Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque reflects a combination of Moorish architecture and neo-classical elements that were popular during the Victorian era.

Built in 1900, it consists of four wings, minarets and pinnacles. It is strategically located on top of a hill at Jalan Abu Bakar, overlooking the Straits of Tebrau.

The first Jamek Mosque in Muar was completed in 1887. A committee was formed in the 1920s to consider building a new mosque. Construction began in 1925. Five years later, the Sultan Ibrahim Jamek Mosque, located along Jalan Petri was officially opened.

Facts

Muslims live by the Five Pillars of Islam, which are the foundations of the religion. The five pillars are: declaration of faith, performing five daily prayers, fasting in the month of Ramadan, giving alms to the poor and performing the Hajj pilgrimage to Makkah.

- a Kampung Hulu Mosque, Melaka
- b Sultan Ibrahim Jamek Mosque, Johor
- c Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque, Johor



- a State Mosque, Sabah
- b Kuching Mosque, Sarawak
- c Sabah City Mosque, Sabah
- d An'Nur Jamek Mosque, Labuan



Sabah

One of the most outstanding architectural feats in Sabah is none other than the State Mosque.

It is situated at Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, just a stone's throw from Kota Kinabalu city centre. Its majestic domes and gold inlay motifs make it a spectacular sight.

The Sabah City Mosque, located at Likas Bay, is another impressive example of marvelous architecture.

Its design resembles the Al-Nabawi Mosque in Madinah, Saudi Arabia. The mosque which was built on a man-made lagoon was officially opened in the year 2000.





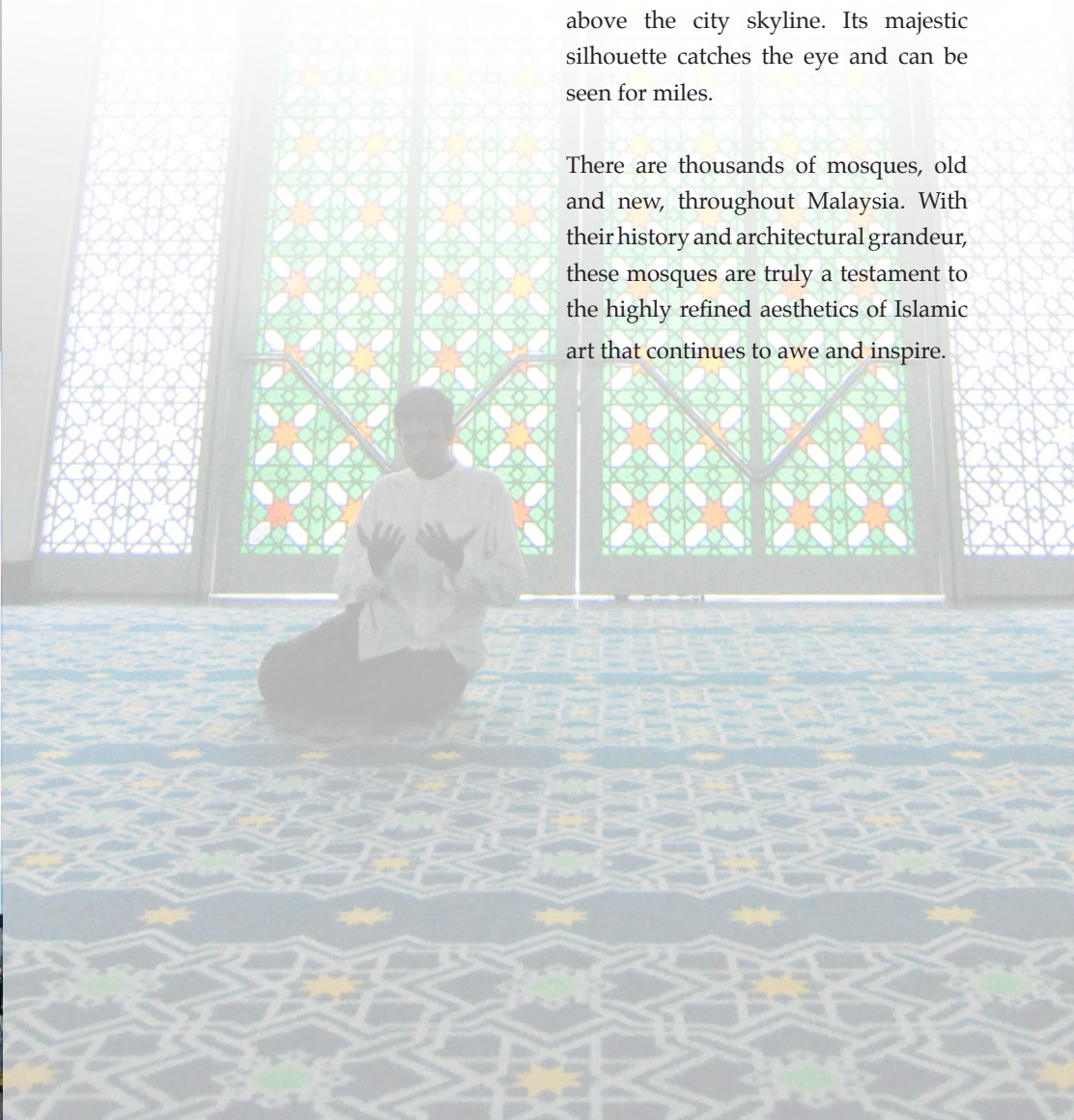
Labuan

The majestic An'Nur Jamek Mosque is the pride of Labuan's Muslim community. The mosque's futuristic architecture reflects the progressive spirit of the people of Labuan.

Sarawak

The Kuching Mosque is one of the most striking landmarks in Sarawak. It was built on the site of an old mosque that was erected in 1852. The mosque's magnificent gilded cupolas rise high above the city skyline. Its majestic silhouette catches the eye and can be seen for miles.

There are thousands of mosques, old and new, throughout Malaysia. With their history and architectural grandeur, these mosques are truly a testament to the highly refined aesthetics of Islamic art that continues to awe and inspire.



Do's & Dont's

Visiting a Mosque

Visitors are advised to report to the Security Officer/Information Counter at the entrance before entering a mosque.

Men are advised to be dressed in long pants and preferably long-sleeved shirts.

Women are required to wear fully-covered clothing. Robes and head scarves are normally provided at the mosques. Women who are menstruating are generally discouraged from entering the main prayer hall.

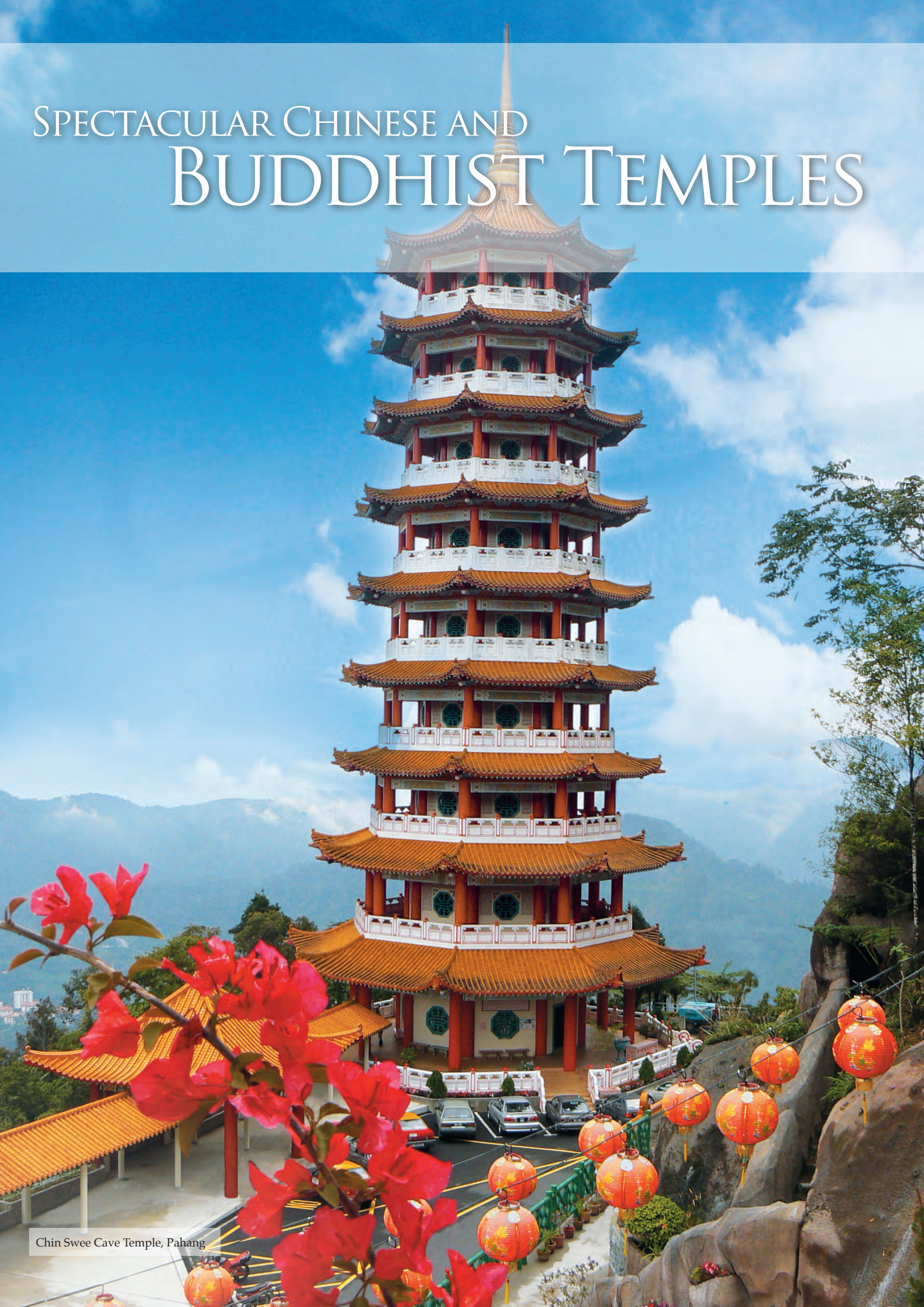
Shoes must be removed before entering the mosque. Visitors are required to use the main entrance and observe respectful silence while in the mosque. Permission should be obtained for photography.

Most mosques are open to visitors from 9.00am. to 5.00pm. Muslims pray five times a day; at dawn, in the afternoon, evening, dusk and at night. Visitors are discouraged from visiting a mosque during prayer times (daily between 1.00 pm to 1.45pm and 4.15pm to 4.45 pm).

Special prayers are held on Fridays between 12.15pm – 2.30pm. Most mosques have officials who can advise visitors on the appropriate time for a visit.



SPECTACULAR CHINESE AND BUDDHIST TEMPLES



Chin Swee Cave Temple, Pahang

INTRICATE CARVINGS AND A RICH ARTISTIC HERITAGE

Chinese and Buddhist temples can be found throughout Malaysia. Be it on a hilltop, or enshrined in a limestone cave, or situated at the centre of a bustling city, these temples are splendidly colourful and elaborate.

Well known for their outstanding pagodas and statues, Chinese temples are popular destinations for tourists.

In Malaysia, Buddhism has a major influence over the Chinese population and a few other ethnic groups. Buddhism first took root in Malaysia with the arrival of the Chinese people. Since the 13th century, Chinese merchants have been frequent traders in the Indonesian and Malay archipelago.

However, a majority of the early Chinese settlers only arrived later in the 19th century. They were from the coastal areas of China, belonging to various clans such as Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Hakka and Hainanese.

The Chinese culture strongly advocates close family ties and a good relationship among clan members. This philosophy is largely shaped by history and also by the three important ethical strands of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. A large number of Malaysian Chinese are Tao Buddhists.

Festivals

The Lunar New Year is celebrated by the Chinese community on a grand scale. On the eve of the New Year, family gatherings and reunion dinners are held. Youngsters and members of the family who are not married will receive 'ang paws', or small red packets containing money as a gift. Don't miss a chance to watch the lion and dragon dances that are major attractions during the festive season.



Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang



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b



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Kuala Lumpur

Not far from the hustle and bustle of the Kuala Lumpur city centre is the six-tiered Thean Hou Temple. Perched atop an affluent residential area along the Old Klang Road, the temple enchants visitors with its sculptured dragons and decorative roofs.

One of the biggest in this region, the temple is dedicated to its main deity, Thean Hou (Heavenly Goddess).

The other deities housed within the temple are Kuan Yin (Goddess of Mercy) and Shui Wei (Goddess of the Hokkien Fishermen).

Within its grounds are replicas of the Chinese zodiac signs. View the city skyline from its pagoda or buy a souvenir or two from the shops located here.

The Sze Ya Temple is the oldest Taoist temple in the city with a history dating back to 1864.

It was built by Yap Ah Loy, the then *kapitan* or leader of the Chinese community in Kuala Lumpur. An ornate interior and elaborate roof ridges are among the appeals of this temple. The Sze Ya Temple pays tribute to the deities of Sin Sze Ya and Si Sze Ya.

The oracles of the former were said to have guided Yap Ah Loy during the Selangor Civil War. The rather unusual position of this temple is believed to have been determined by *feng shui* or Chinese geomancy.

The Chan See Shu Yuen Temple, at Jalan Stadium near Chinatown, has a very fascinating architecture. Built in 1906, its interior is adorned with ceramic glazed tiles while the walls are intricately painted.

The Choo Sing Tong Temple, situated at Kampung Kasipillai off Jalan Ipoh, pays homage to Guan Ti, the God of War. Guan Ti (sometimes spelt as Guan Di) is the legendary God of War for the Taoists. Guan Ti is also referred to as Guan Gong or Guan Yu.

According to legend, Guan Ti was a famous general in the Chinese army, known for his great courage and skill. Guan Ti has a distinctive appearance, portrayed with a red complexion and a long beard. However, his most identifiable feature is the mighty sword that is always kept with him. It is said that no ordinary person can carry such a heavy sword. Other deities in this temple are Guan Ping and Zhou Cang.

a Thean Hou Temple, Kuala Lumpur.

b Choo Sing Tong Temple, Kuala Lumpur

c Chan See Shu Yuen Temple, Kuala Lumpur

Constructed by craftsmen from China, the temple boasts intricate traditional architecture. The scenic temple grounds are made up of a pond, water features and other decorative elements. Visitors can browse through the Dragon Wall which depicts the Nine Sons of God. One of the highlights at the temple ground is the collection of tales relating to filial piety and other moral values. The tales are depicted as sculptures, and come complete with descriptions in English and Chinese.

Selangor

The beautiful structure of the Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple in Jenjarom, Kuala Langat, has attracted thousands of visitors since its opening in 1994. Built on 16 acres of immaculately landscaped land, the temple serves as a monastery as well as a centre for culture and religious studies. Interesting features include the main shrine, where visitors can find a 5.4-metre high statue of Lord Buddha sculpted in bronze.

Among the many other attractions here are its monumental archway, statue of Kuan Yin (the Goddess of Mercy) and the 18 Arhats (sages). A transparent tower in Lapis Lazuli pays tribute to Lord Buddha. Visitors can also see copper tooling which depicts the life of Lord Buddha.

Perak

The state of Perak is known for its cave temples. Mainly situated around the capital city of Ipoh, these temples are fascinating and intriguing attractions. Reputed to be the most beautiful cave temple in Ipoh, the Perak Tong is set within the huge limestone caves of Gunung Tasek, six kilometers north of Ipoh town. The temple was built by Buddhist monks from China in 1926.

It has over 40 statues of Lord Buddha with the main statue standing at 12.8 metres. Traditional Chinese paintings, which adorn the walls, depict Buddhist legends and folk tales.

Five kilometres south of Ipoh, near Gunung Rapat, lies the famous Sam Poh Tong Temple. An impressive work of art, the temple houses statues of Lord Buddha set amongst the stalactites and stalagmites. According to legend, the cave was discovered by a monk from China. He made it his home and place for meditation. One of the unique attractions of this temple is its 246 steps leading to the top - offering a marvellous view of the Ipoh city.

The Kek Look Tong is another interesting cave temple. It is situated within huge limestone outcrops behind Gunung Rapat. The temple's collection of bronze statues and its manicured garden set it apart from the rest.

Visitors to the island resort of Pangkor should visit the Fu Lin Kong Temple. Within the serene setting, visitors will find shady trees, tortoise ponds and a replica of the Great Wall of China.

- a The altar at Kek Look Tong Temple, Perak
- b Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple, Selangor
- c Perak Tong Temple, Perak
- d Kek Look Tong Temple, Perak





a



b



c

- a Interior of the Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang
- b Kuan Yin Teng, Penang
- c Han Jiang Ancestral Temple, Penang
- d Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang

Penang

Visitors to Penang will find many ornate and beautiful Chinese temples. One of the most visited is the Kek Lok Si Temple. Standing majestically on a hilltop at Air Hitam, the Kek Lok Si Temple is one of the finest Buddhist temples in Southeast Asia.

Built in tiers, the temple boasts the beautifully crafted “Pagoda of Ten Thousand Buddhas” – a unique combination of Sino-Thai-Burmese architecture. The construction of the temple took over 20 years.

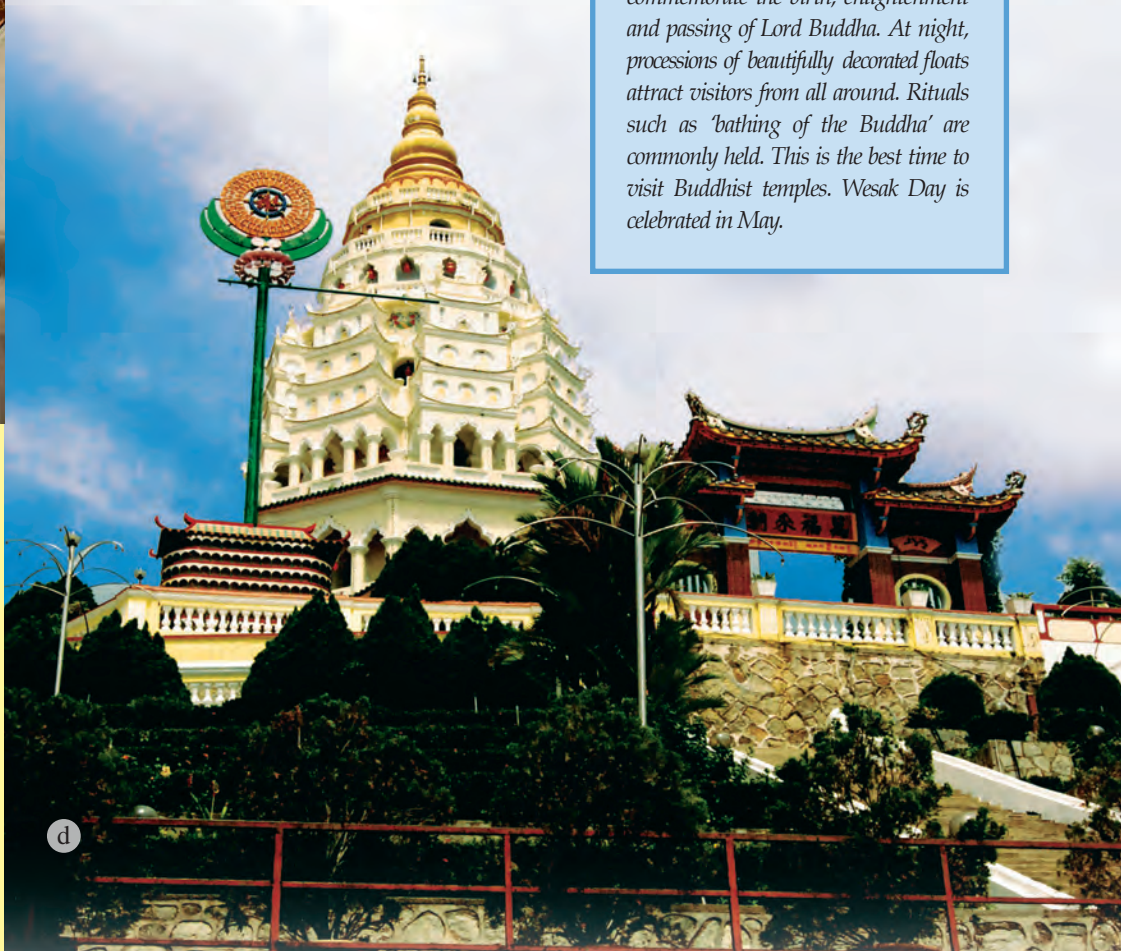
Penang’s oldest Buddhist temple is the Goddess of Mercy Temple, located at Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling. Also known as the Kuan Yin Teng, it was built in 1801 by early immigrant settlers from China. The temple is dedicated to two goddesses; Kuan Yin, the goddess who watches over the good and kind

as well as Ma Chor Poh, the patron saint of seafarers. The high roof of the main hall is supported by dragon-entwined pillars carved out of a green stone. The building is decorated with intricately crafted dragons and sculptured stone lions which are said to be its guardians.

The Han Jiang Ancestral Temple of the Penang Teochew Association, located in Lebuah Chulia, was awarded the 2006 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. Built in the mid-19th century, the temple underwent a major restoration in 2003. The temple reflects the excellent Teochew craftsmanship and architecture. It is the only Teochew temple in Georgetown and one of the best conserved Teochew Association buildings in Southeast Asia.

FESTIVALS

Wesak Day is celebrated by Buddhists to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and passing of Lord Buddha. At night, processions of beautifully decorated floats attract visitors from all around. Rituals such as ‘bathing of the Buddha’ are commonly held. This is the best time to visit Buddhist temples. Wesak Day is celebrated in May.



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Kelantan

In the East Coast, the Sweet Nyet Kong Temple in Gua Musang, Kelantan, has a history that goes back 400 years. The temple houses the Ma Chor Bew statue from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The temple and its surrounding village were burnt down by the Japanese in 1941. The new temple was rebuilt in 1970. It has an interesting collection of miniature cannons and ammunition.

Seated within the temple is the statue of Reverend Master Chin Swee, hailed as a deity in Fujian Province, China, for his supernatural abilities to summon rain and drive away evil spirits.

Besides paying homage to Reverend Chin Swee, devotees can also worship Lord Buddha and the Goddess Kuan Yin, whose large white statues stand high behind the five-storey temple.

Terengganu

Kampung Cina, in the capital city of Kuala Terengganu, is an enclave for the Chinese community. Here, the Ho Ann Kiong Temple, built in 1801, is not only a place of worship for the locals but also a centre for community activities.

Dubbed as 'the City of Entertainment' Genting Highlands is well-known throughout the region for its indoor and outdoor theme parks, golf resort, casino and spectacular shows.

Pahang

Situated in the popular highland resort of Genting Highlands, the Chin Swee Cave Temple is a delightful and unique attraction. Visitors will be greeted by the Nine-Colour Dragon Wall of Luck at the entrance of the temple.

Festivals

The Hungry Ghost festival falls on the seventh month of the Chinese lunar calendar. The Chinese believe that the souls of the dead are released from Purgatory to roam the earth. Prayers, sumptuous food, gifts and entertainment are laid out to appease the wandering spirits.



- a Ho Ann Kiong Temple, Terengganu
- b Chin Swee Cave Temple, Pahang
- c Sweet Nyet Kong Temple, Kelantan



a



b



c

- a San Ching Tian Temple, Sarawak
- b Cheng Hoon Teng Temple, Melaka
- c Ancient Chinese Temple, Johor

Melaka

Hailed as the 'historic city', Melaka has a colourful and interesting past. The Cheng Hoon Teng Temple is one of the places where visitors can gain an insight into the state's bygone days. It is also known as the Temple of Bright Clouds. Built in 1646, it is the oldest temple in Malaysia and also outside China.

The temple was constructed entirely from materials imported from southern China. Three doctrinal systems are practiced in this temple – Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism.

The restoration work done on this temple was so impressive that it won the UNESCO Award of Merit for Culture Heritage Conservation. This temple is located at the heart of Melaka's Chinatown.

Johor

Built in the late 19th century, the Johor Ancient Chinese Temple is one of the oldest structures in the city. Tucked away along the busy Jalan Trus at the heart of Johor Bahru, the temple poses a striking contrast to the modern high-rise buildings, shopping malls and five-star hotels in the area.

Here, under one roof, visitors can find five deities worshipped by five different clans – the Hainanese, Cantonese, Hakka, Hokkien and Teochew.

Sabah

The 'Land Below the Wind' or Sabah, is the site of several well-known Buddhist temples. Among them are the Puh Toh Tze Temple, located off Tuaran Road, 15km from Kota Kinabalu.

Built in 1980, the temple stands out with its traditional Chinese roofing and structure. Ten large statues adorn the temple with the statue of Kuan Yin dominating the main entrance.

The Puu Jih Shih Buddhist Temple is situated on the hilltop above Tanah Merah, south of Sandakan town. The temple, which is the biggest in Sabah, was built in 1987. The ornate temple is a blaze of red and gold, with coiling dragons, gold gilded Buddhas and hundreds of gleaming lamps. Visitors will be able to catch a breathtaking view of Sandakan Bay from where the temple is located.

Sarawak

Malaysia's largest state houses a number of temples, scattered all over its many districts. The Tua Pek Kong Temple is the oldest in Kuching, the capital city. This ornate temple is believed to have been built in 1843, although official records only recognised its existence in 1876. It boasts authentic Chinese architecture with colourful dragons along the walls.

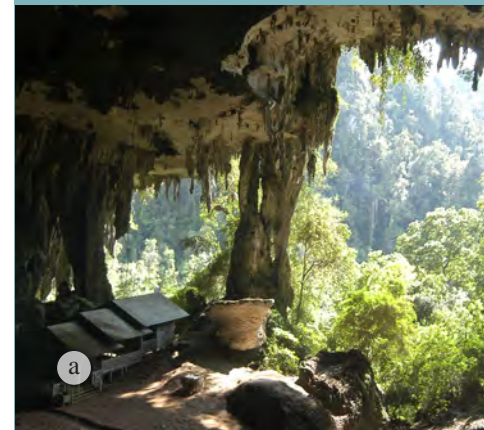
In Sibü, the Eng Ann Tua Pek Kong is famous for its seven-storey pagoda which stands majestically beside the mighty Sungai Rejang (Rejang River). The temple is a distinctive landmark in Sibü town. It is also known as The Great Uncles temple.

Miri is the site of the largest Taoist temple in Southeast Asia. Located in Krokop, the San Ching Tian Temple has become one of Miri's major attractions since it was opened in the year 2000.

Festivals

The Mid-Autumn Festival or the Lantern and Mooncake Festival is celebrated on the eighth month of the lunar calendar. Lantern processions and tasty mooncakes make it a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

- a Mulu Caves, Sarawak
- b Tua Pek Kong Temple, Sarawak
- c Puh Toh Tze Temple, Sabah



- a Wat Chetawan, Selangor
- b Wat Mai Suwankhiri, Kelantan
- c Wat Nikrodharam, Kedah
- d Dhammikarama Burmese Temple, Penang
- e Buddhist Maha Vihara, Kuala Lumpur



Thai Buddhist Temples

Although Buddhism in Malaysia is largely influenced by the Chinese culture and heritage, there are also elements of Thai influence in certain Buddhist temples.

These Thai temples or *wats*, are very different in their architecture. Thai *wats* are mostly located in the states bordering Thailand.

Nestled within the bustling suburban city of Petaling Jaya, Selangor, is one of the main Thai Buddhist temples in Klang Valley, Wat Chetawan.

The temple's intricate design and its statues, its towering main prayer hall and the surrounding shrines are features that have impressed devotees and visitors alike. It was constructed as a small shrine in 1957 and the present temple was built in the early 1960s.

A trip to Penang will not be complete without a visit to Wat Chaiya Mangkalam, one of the most popular tourist attractions in the state.

It is the largest Buddhist temple in Penang. Built in 1845, it houses a 33-metre Reclining Buddha, acclaimed as the third longest in the world. The statue is draped in a gold-leafed saffron robe.

In Kelantan, Thai Buddhist temples were said to have been built more than 500 years ago. Today, there are about 25 in the district of Tumpat alone.

Among the most outstanding ones are Wat Machimmaram, Wat Mai Suwankhiri, Wat Photivihan and Wat Uttamaram.

The Wat Photivihan houses a 40-metre-long, 11-metre high and nine-metre wide Reclining Buddha, which is believed to be the largest in Southeast Asia.

The temple, located in Kampung Jambu, is reputed to be more than 200 years old. However, the statue of the Reclining Buddha was only constructed in 1973 and completed in 1979. Wat Uttamaram is said to be the oldest and most beautiful temple in Kelantan.



Situated outside Kampung Repek, the temple has an orange and green multi-tiered roof and statues of large dragons circling the verandah.

To see the largest statue of Sitting Buddha in Southeast Asia, head to Wat Machimmaram. The statue is 30 metres high and 47 metres wide.

Another Thai Buddhist temple worth visiting in Tumpat is Wat Mai Suwankhiri. It is also known as the Dragon Boat Temple. The main temple is housed within a replica of a huge dragon boat.

In the northern state of Kedah, one of the popular temples is Wat Nikrodharam. Located at Jalan Teluk Wan Jah, Alor Setar, the temple features ornate architecture and beautiful statues.

Other forms of Buddhist worship can be seen in the Burmese and Ceylonese

Buddhist temples found in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. The Dhammikarama Burmese Temple, founded in 1803, is the first Buddhist temple in Penang.

Located along Lorong Burmah, the attractions in the temple include a 200-year-old well and a large image of Lord Buddha made of marbles.

Statues of two elephants are placed at the entrance. This temple is situated overlooking the Wat Chaiya Mangkalaram.

The Buddhist Maha Vihara in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, was founded in the 1890s. It was built to provide a place for the Sri Lankan immigrants to practice Buddhism.

Thousands of people throng this temple during the annual Wesak Day festival.

Floats and floral parades are the highlight of the event. When illuminated at night, the statue of the Sitting Buddha makes an impressive sight.

Do's & Dont's

Visiting a Buddhist Temple

Most Buddhist temples require visitors to remove their shoes.

Visitors are advised to observe respectful silence.

Visitors may purchase and light candles or joss sticks if they wish.

Always ask for permission before taking photographs.

The fragrance of incense and joss sticks will fill the air in most Buddhist temples. Visitors who are unaccustomed to the fragrance are advised to take note of this.



MAJESTIC HINDU TEMPLES



Sri Mariamman Temple, Johor

DISCOVER A PANTHEON OF DEITIES AT ORNATE HINDU TEMPLES

Hinduism is one of the major religions in Malaysia. Pay a visit to one of the many Hindu temples in this country and visitors will be charmed by its architecture. Hindu temples boast splendid decorations, with every wall and ceiling bearing beautiful sculptures.

In most Hindu temples, visitors can find figures of deities as well as depictions of scenes from Hindu epics and mythology. These depictions normally tell a story. An interesting feature in Hindu temples is the *gopuram* or monumental tower which is also adorned with sculptures and intricate decorative elements.

Hindu temples are built according to *vaastu shastra* or the ancient Hindu science of architecture and building layout.

The Indian community is the third largest race in Malaysia. Though Indians make up less than 10 percent, the culture is pervasive in towns and cities. The origins of Indians in Malaysia can be traced back to the fifth century.

In villages, small towns, cities, hilltops and even in caves, there are Hindu temples of different sizes that pay homage to various deities. Some of these temples are not only popular among the local community but are also visited by devotees from other parts of the country. It is also common to see foreign tourists visiting these temples during certain festivals. One of the most widely known Hindu festival is Thaipusam.

Festivals

Hindus celebrate Deepavali or the 'Festival of Lights' which symbolises the triumph of good over evil. It falls in the month of Aipasi in the Hindu calendar (October or early November). Traditionally, Hindus start the day by having an oil bath before sunrise. Thanksgiving prayers are offered at temples while homes are decorated with lights and the colourful 'kolam' (floor decoration made of flour or coloured rice). It is a time for feasting, especially on sweet cakes and candies.



Batu Caves, Selangor



Kuala Lumpur

The Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, located at Jalan Tun H.S. Lee, is one of the most famous and most photographed temples. It is also one of Malaysia's largest and most ornate Hindu temples.

The temple's towering portico and statues of goddesses are arresting features that attract visitors even from afar. Although it traces its origins to 1873, the present structure was rebuilt and consecrated in the late 1990s.

Scenes from Hindu mythology elaborately decorate its tower. Located within is the deity of Goddess Maha Mariamman embellished with gold and precious stones.

The temple plays an important part in the Thaipusam festival. It is from here that the exquisite silver chariot bearing the deity of Lord Muruga is taken on a grand procession, all the way to Batu Caves in Selangor.

The temple is situated in Petaling Street or Chinatown, a great shopping zone.

The Kortu Malai (Court Hill) Pillayar Temple in Pudu, which is built around a tree, as well as Sri Kandaswamy Temple in Brickfields, are other remarkable places of worship for the Hindus. Visitors to Mid Valley City can drop by at the Sri Moogambigai Temple situated here.

Selangor

A not to be missed destination among local and foreign tourists to Malaysia is the world-famous Batu Caves.

It is the main venue for Thaipusam, an annual Hindu festival. The grand scale celebrations draw thousands of devotees and visitors alike.

Located 15km north of Kuala Lumpur, Batu Caves is the site of a 113-year old temple, set within a cave that is almost 400 feet above ground level. The main temple houses the deity of Sri Subramaniam, also known as Lord Muruga.

One of the highlights of a visit to Batu Caves is climbing up the 272 steps that lead to the main temple.

a Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, Kuala Lumpur

b Sri Kandaswamy Temple, Kuala Lumpur.

Within the grounds are two other temples and a 140-foot statue of Lord Muruga, reputed to be the tallest in the world.

The gleaming golden statue can be seen from miles away. Visitors should not miss the Ramayana Cave, Valluvar Kottam and Art Gallery situated at the base. They feature beautiful and evocative scenes of Hindu epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata as well as depictions of the lives of renowned Tamil poets.

Negeri Sembilan

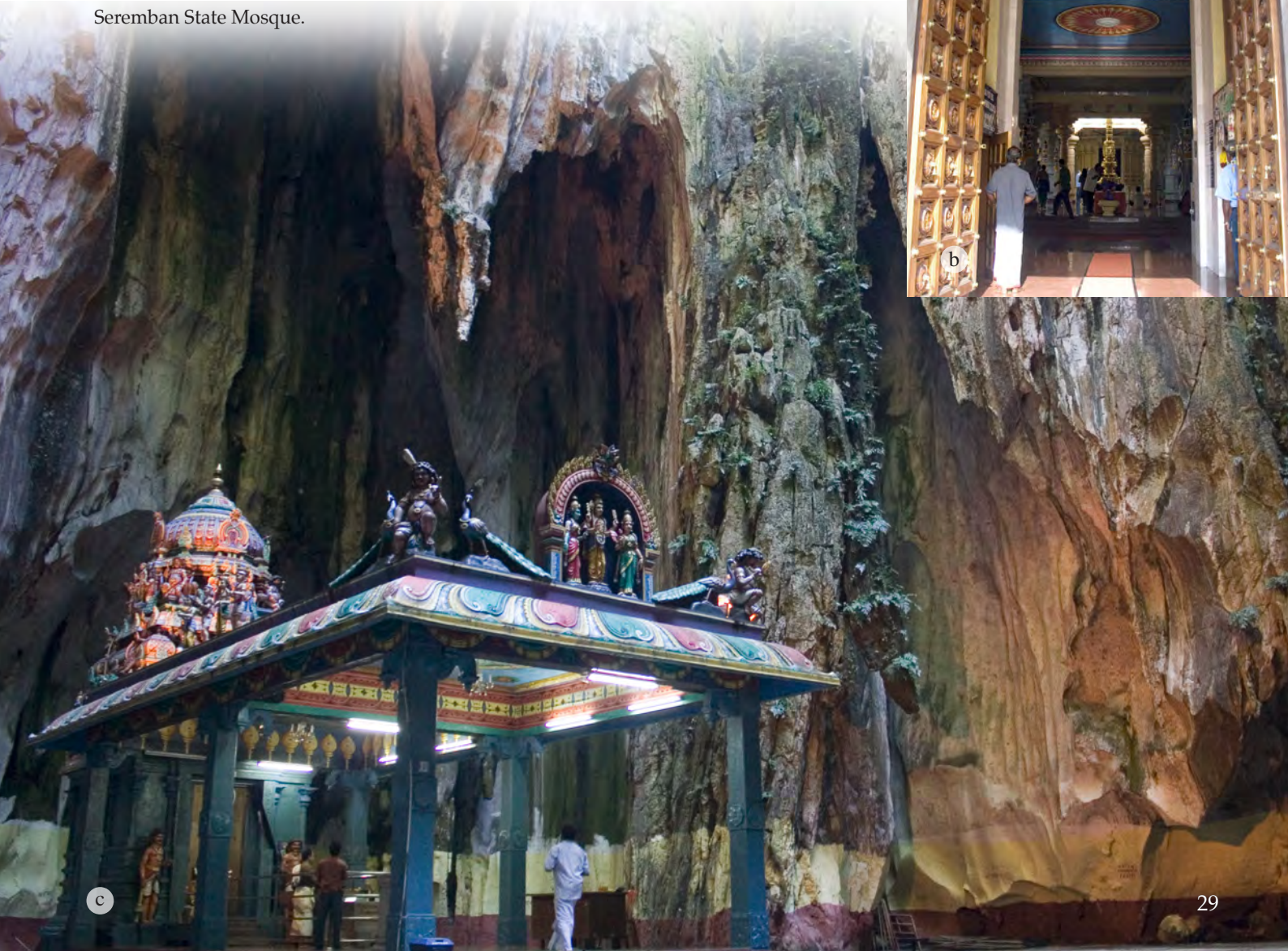
Take a drive around Seremban, the capital of Negeri Sembilan, and visitors will definitely notice the Sri Bala Thandayuthapani Temple.

From humble beginnings in 1865, the temple has been transformed into a majestic edifice with a brightly coloured tower and ornate decorations. Situated across the temple is the Seremban State Mosque.

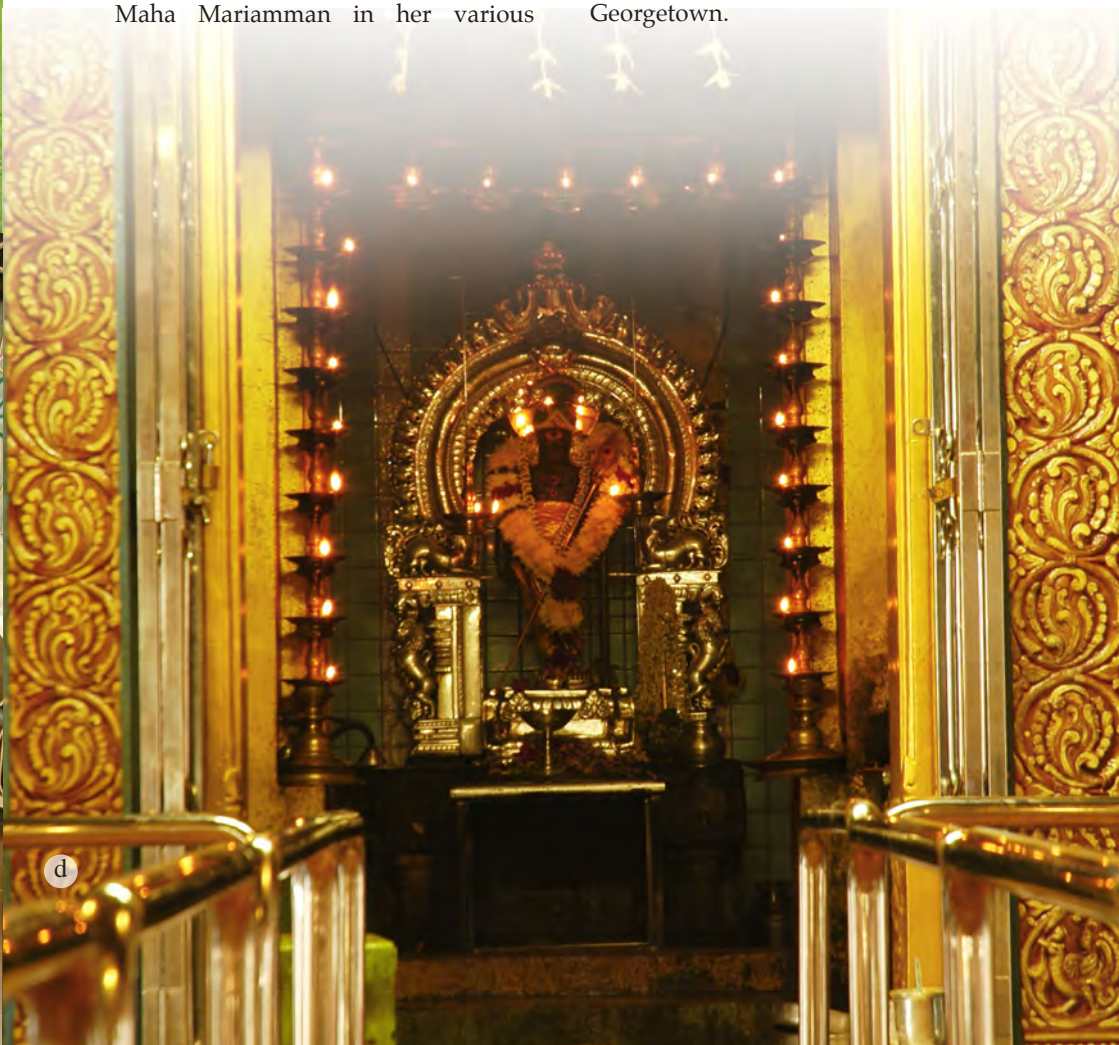
Festivals

Thaipusam is a festival that pays homage to Lord Muruga. It is a time for penance as well as thanksgiving for prayers that have been answered. To fulfill their pledges, devotees perform rituals such as bearing ornate frames known as 'kavadis' or carrying milk pots on their heads. In the capital city, huge processions pass through the streets of Kuala Lumpur to Batu Caves. Thaipusam is also celebrated in other parts of the country, including Penang, Perak and Kedah.

- a Sri Moogambigai Temple, Kuala Lumpur
- b Sri Bala Thandayuthapani Temple, Negeri Sembilan
- c Batu Caves, Selangor



- a Sri Poyyatha Vinayagar Moorthi Temple, Melaka
- b Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, Penang
- c *Nadaswaran*, a traditional musical instrument.
- d Nattukottai Chettiar Temple, Penang



Melaka

Believed to be the oldest in the country, the Sri Poyyatha Vinayagar Moorthi Temple was built as early as 1781. The land was donated by a Chitty headman by the name of Thaivanayagam Chitty.

This temple is dedicated to Lord Ganesha, the deity with an elephant head. Known as the ‘remover of obstacles’, Lord Ganesha is worshipped before beginning new tasks or pursuits.

The temple stands on the same row as the Kampung Hulu Mosque and Cheng Hoon Teng Chinese Temple.

Penang

Situated at the corner of Lebuah Chulia and Lebuah Queen is the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, the oldest temple on the island of Penang. It traces its origins all the way to 1801, when it was a humble Hindu shrine. This temple was renovated and consecrated in 1833.

It features the Hindu Goddess Sri Maha Mariamman in her various

incarnations. Hailed as the ‘mother of the universe’, the Goddess Mariamman is worshipped by all, especially ladies. An important occasion here is *Navarathri* or the nine-day festival celebrated in the month of *Puratasi*, the sixth month in the Hindu calendar.

Nearby is the Little India street, where visitors can find an array of goods from flowers, incense sticks to costume jewellery.

Occupying a scenic spot on a hilltop, the Arulmigu Bala Thandayuthapani Temple is another famous place of worship in Penang.

Dedicated to Lord Thandayuthapani, an incarnation of Lord Muruga, this temple is frequented by thousands of devotees during the annual Thaipusam festival.

Don’t miss the overnight procession when the chariot is taken all the way to the Nattukottai Chettiar Temple in Georgetown.



Pahang

Tucked away in a secluded area in Maran, the Sri Marathandhavar Temple may not be easily accessible.

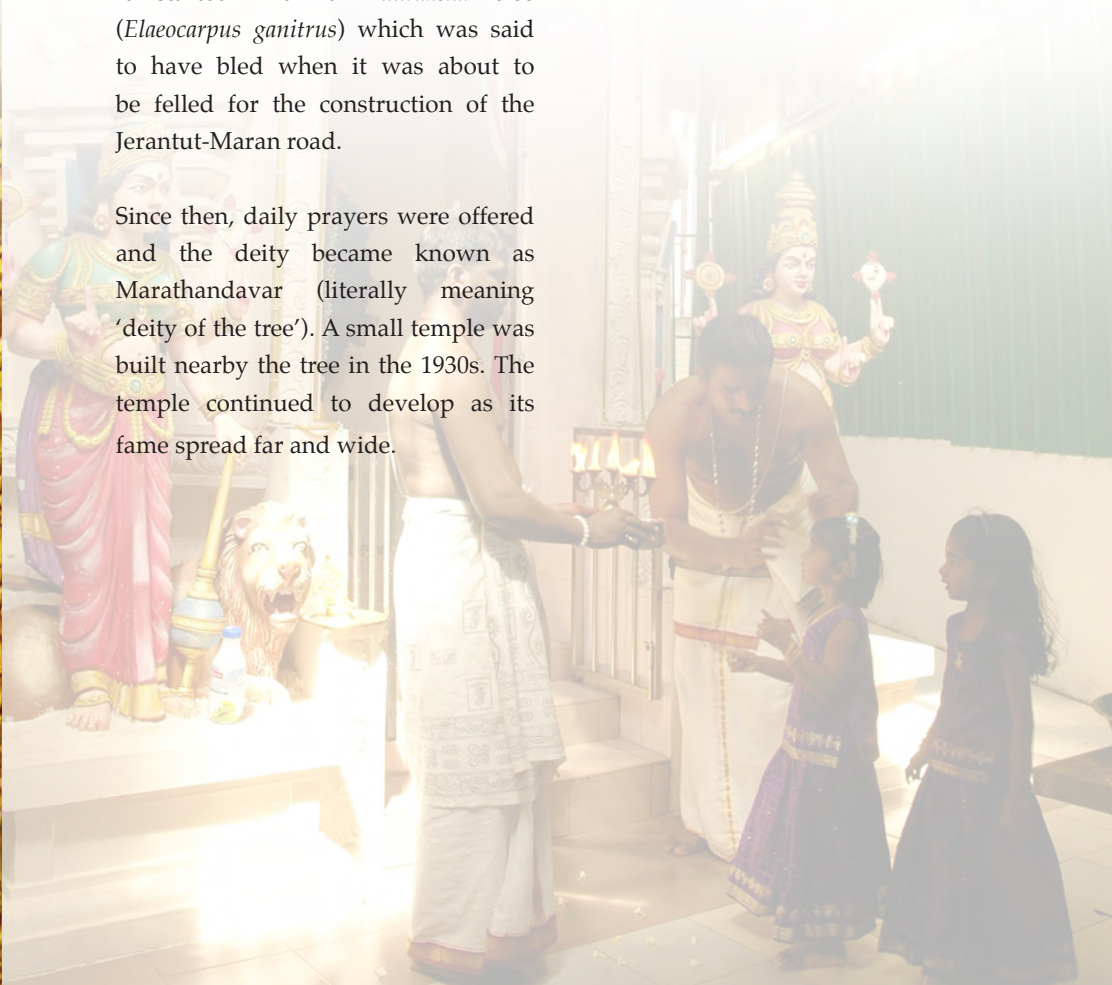
But, thousands of devotees from all over the country throng this temple during the annual Pangguni Utthiram festival. Set amongst lush green jungle, the century-old temple has a very interesting history.

It started with a *Rudraksha* tree (*Elaeocarpus ganitrus*) which was said to have bled when it was about to be felled for the construction of the Jerantut-Marang road.

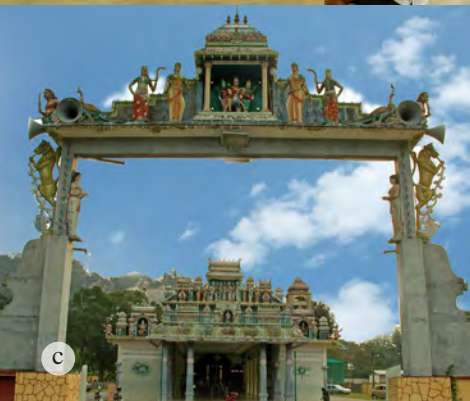
Since then, daily prayers were offered and the deity became known as Marathandavar (literally meaning 'deity of the tree'). A small temple was built nearby the tree in the 1930s. The temple continued to develop as its fame spread far and wide.

Festivals

Thai Ponggal is a harvest festival celebrated in the month of Thai, the tenth month in the Hindu calendar. 'Ponggal' literally means 'boiling over' or 'overflow' in Tamil. It is celebrated to offer gratitude for a good harvest. The highlight of the celebration is when the family gathers to prepare the signature delicacy of the festival, a sweet rice dish also known as 'ponngal'.



- a Nattukotai Chettiar Temple, Penang
- b Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, Penang
- c Sri Marathandhavar Temple, Pahang



Perak

Set amidst limestone caves in Ipoh, the capital city of Perak, is the Arulmigu Subramaniyar Temple. It is popularly known as Kallummalai Temple, meaning 'temple at the stone hills'.

For history lovers, the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple in Batu Gajah unravels an interesting and intriguing past. Situated about 20 minutes drive from Ipoh, this quaint town is the site of a well-known tourist attraction called Kellie's Castle. It was built in 1915 by William Kellie Smith, an English rubber planter, for his beloved wife.

As the story goes, during the construction of the castle, the Spanish flu epidemic broke out and caused the death of many Indian workers. Following the advice of his workforce, William Kellie Smith built a temple in the estate to protect their well-being. To honour William Kellie Smith, his statuette was built along with the deities and sculptures of the temple.

Today, the figurine of an Englishman with a white topee, green jacket and khaki-coloured pants still stands on the temple roof, looking over his one-time empire and people. The temple is situated about 1.5 km from Kellie's Castle. It is even believed that a secret tunnel connects the castle and temple!

- a Sri Mariamman Temple, Johor
- b Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, Perak
- c Kallummalai Temple, Perak
- d Decorative wedding dais in a temple



Do's & Dont's

Visiting a Hindu Temple

Hindu devotees enter the temple barefooted and are required to wash their hands and feet before prayers.

Visitors are advised to dress modestly.

Daily prayers are held in the mornings and evenings. Therefore, these are the best times to visit a Hindu temple.

Temples are usually closed between 11.30am to 5.30pm.

Access to the inner sanctum of a Hindu temple is restricted to priests. Devotees and visitors are not allowed into the main deity rooms.

Only vegetarian food will be allowed into temples. Visitors are advised to take note of this.

Although photography is allowed in most temples, some temples have certain restrictions. Visitors are always advised to ask for permission first.



Johor

The Arulmigu Sri Raja Kaliyamman Temple, or more popularly known as the Glass Temple, is one-of-its-kind in the country. Fully built with coloured glass, the temple pays homage to the Goddess Raja Kaliyamman.

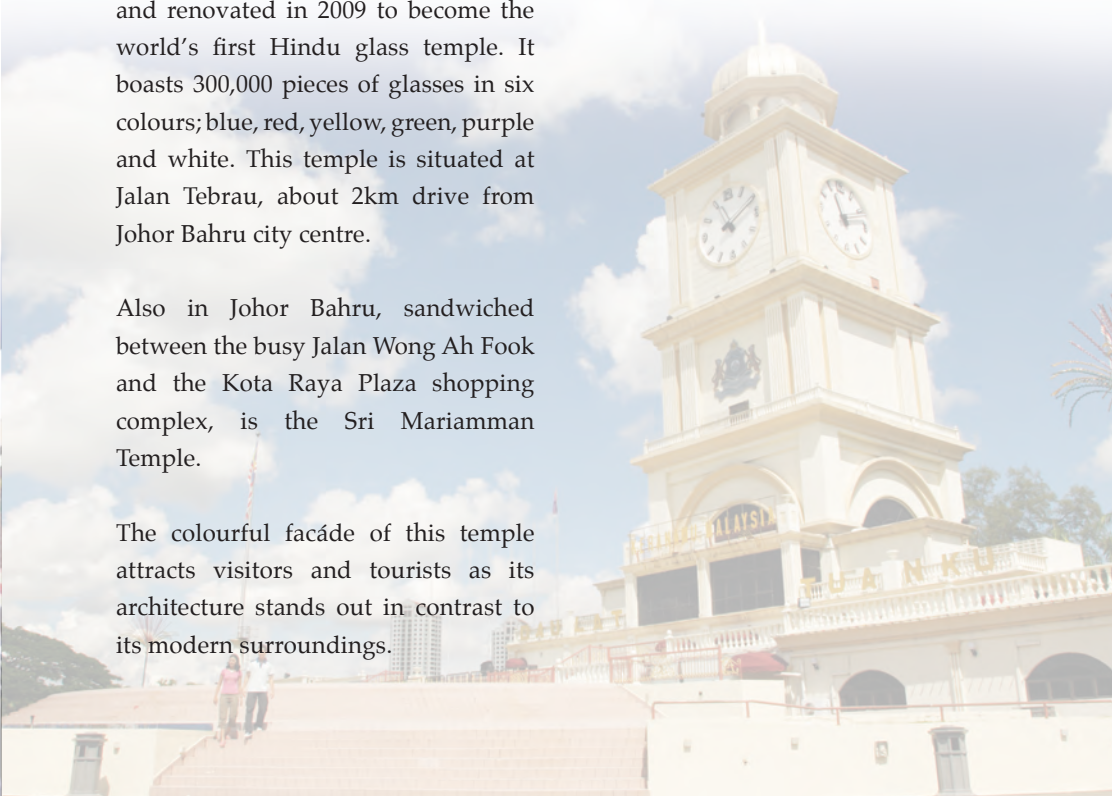
The temple was initially built in 1922 and renovated in 2009 to become the world's first Hindu glass temple. It boasts 300,000 pieces of glasses in six colours; blue, red, yellow, green, purple and white. This temple is situated at Jalan Tebrau, about 2km drive from Johor Bahru city centre.

Also in Johor Bahru, sandwiched between the busy Jalan Wong Ah Fook and the Kota Raya Plaza shopping complex, is the Sri Mariamman Temple.

The colourful façade of this temple attracts visitors and tourists as its architecture stands out in contrast to its modern surroundings.

Festivals

The Tamil New Year is celebrated on a grand scale by Hindus. It falls in the month of 'Chittirai', the first month in the Hindu calendar.



CAPTIVATING CHURCHES



Christ Church, Melaka

CHURCHES ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL INFLUENCE

European architecture or Gothic designs are among the distinctive features of churches in Malaysia. Some new churches assimilate local design elements such as Minangkabau-style motifs. A number of historic churches can be found in the states of Melaka and Penang.

The history of Christianity in Malaysia can be traced back to the heyday of Melaka, when traders from various parts of the region frequented the port. When the Portuguese conquered Melaka, it paved the way for the arrival of Jesuit priests to spread Catholicism.

Churches were established with the arrival of the Portuguese in 1511, the Dutch in 1641 and the British in 1786. The first churches were constructed in Melaka and Penang. In the 1800s, more churches were erected in the neighbourhood of the British settlers.

The major Christian denominations in Malaysia are Roman Catholic, Protestant, Anglican and Methodist, just to name a few. A large number of churches in Malaysia were built during the Portuguese era.

Festivals

The magic of Christmas touches all Malaysians. It is celebrated here with enthusiasm and joy, just like it is in other parts of the world. Gifts are exchanged and carol singers mark the Yuletide spirit at homes. Christians attend masses on Christmas eve and Christmas day itself. Churches, shopping malls and hotels are brightly decorated with Christmas trees and are often enlivened by the appearance of Santa Claus.



Lady of Lourdes Church, Perak



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a Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin, Kuala Lumpur

b St. John's Church, Perak

c St. George's Church, Penang

Kuala Lumpur

In the vibrant metropolis of Kuala Lumpur stands the Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin. Though this Anglican Church is not a high-rise building, it is one of the most prominent structures in the area. This church, which features English Gothic design, was first constructed as a wooden building on top of a hill now known as Bukit Aman.

A new and larger church was built at the present site at Jalan Raja in 1894. Interesting features here include beautiful stained glass windows, tasselled tile paving and buttresses. Another unique attraction is the pipe organ built in 1895 by Henry Willis, regarded as one of the greatest organ builders of his day.

Perak

The Lady of Lourdes Church was built in 1905 as a little wooden structure. As the church became inadequate for its increasing population, a new church was constructed in 1959.

The Lourdes Youth Centre was later built at the site of the old church. There is a small Grotto here, which was rebuilt and extended in 1966.

The church is situated along Jalan Silibin. There are a number of churches within Ipoh city. One of them is the St. John's Church at Jalan St. John.

Opened in 1912, this Anglican Church is steeped in history. During the British occupation, the first three pews were reserved for the British. When the Japanese took over the country, the church was regarded as enemy property and converted into a noodle factory for some time.

There are several plaques in the church, set up to honour the valiant British soldiers who perished in World War I and the Malayan Emergency period. The bookcase here was presented to the church by members of the Worcestershire Regiment (an infantry regiment in the British army) to commemorate their tour in Malaya between 1950 - 1953.

Penang

The St. Anne's Sanctuary in Bukit Mertajam (situated in mainland Penang) is a 19th century colonial building that has been well-preserved over the years.

From a small chapel built atop a hillock, it has become a centre of pilgrimage in the region. In 1957, a bigger church was built next to the old one, now called the St. Anne's Shrine. A multi-tiered Minangkabau roof and Gothic architecture are among the features that make this church unique.

The church was named after St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Celebrations are held annually on a grand scale in conjunction with the St Anne's Feast in July. During this festival, thousands of devotees gather here and participate in a candlelight procession.

Built with convict labour in 1818, the St. George's Church is said to be the oldest Anglican church in this region. It is named after the patron saint of England and its architecture was modeled after a church in Madras (now known as Chennai).

The Greek-style memorial at the church grounds was set up to honour Captain Francis Light, the founder of Penang. St. George's Church is situated at Farquhar Street on Penang Island.

Negeri Sembilan

The history of the Church of the Visitation in Seremban is closely related to the visiting French priests, who came in the 19th and 20th centuries. The church traces its origins to 1885, when it was built as a chapel with thatched roof. A new church was built in 1899. A few years later, renovations were made to its nave and roof while a new apse and belfry were added to the existing structure.

Today, the shape of the church remains the same, but renovations have been made to the main altar. An awe-inspiring crucifix stands in the sanctuary. This Catholic church is situated at Jalan Yam Tuan.

Melaka

Known for its rich and colourful past, Melaka is a destination where visitors can marvel at churches that date back to the 16th century.

The bright red Christ Church situated at Jalan Gereja is one of the most photographed buildings in Malaysia. Completed in 1753, the building is testament to Dutch architectural ingenuity.

This prominent icon of Melaka showcases some interesting features, including handmade pews, ceiling beams that are constructed without joints, a brass bible, a tombstone with Armenian inscription and a depiction of 'The Last Supper' in glazed tiles.

Situated nearby is the Stadthuys, another major landmark that showcases classic Dutch architecture. It houses the Museum of History and Ethnography. Not far from the Stadthuys, visitors will find a flight of stairs leading to St. Paul's Hill. At the summit stands the ruins of St. Paul's Church.

The church was built in 1521 by a Catholic Portuguese Captain, Duarte Coelho. Originally, this structure was a small chapel named 'Our Lady of the Hill'. It was later renamed St. Paul's Church by the Dutch.

The open grave inside is where St. Francis Xavier, who regularly visited the church, was laid to rest before his remains were transferred to Goa, India. A marble statue commemorates his internment here over 400 years ago.

The Church of St. Francis Xavier at Jalan Laksamana was built in 1849 by a Catholic French priest, Reverend Farve.

It is dedicated to St. Francis Xavier who was known as the 'Apostle of the East' for his missionary works in Southeast Asia during the 16th century.

This is a fine example of Gothic-style architecture. For a very long time, it was the largest church built by the Paris Foreign Missionary in the Malay Peninsula.

Situated along Jalan Bendahara is the yellow-coloured St. Peter's Church. Built in 1710, it is the oldest Roman Catholic church in Malaysia. The church was built on a piece of land donated by a Dutch gentleman, Maryber Franz Amboer.

Festivals

Good Friday is an annual event commemorating the crucifixion and passing of Jesus Christ. It is a solemn day observed with a special mass at the churches.

- a Lady of Lourdes Church, Perak
- b Church of the Visitation, Negeri Sembilan
- c Christ Church, Melaka





Its façade and décor showcase a striking combination of Eastern and Western architecture. St. Peter's Church has the distinction of being the only one in Malaysia to have a life-size alabaster statue of Christ. Another attraction here is its bell that was cast in 1608 in Goa, India.

Sabah

A sizeable proportion of the people in Sabah and Sarawak are Christians. Hence, it is no surprise that these two states, situated on the island of Borneo, have a number of churches. Each church has its own historical background.

The Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral in Kota Kinabalu was first built in 1938. A new building was constructed in 1953 when the church was destroyed by aerial bombing during the World War II.

The idea of constructing a totally new cathedral was first mooted in the early 1970s when it was discovered that the roof of the old church was weakening.

The first phase of building the Parish Hall was completed in 1975, followed by a new Rectory and workers' quarters in 1977. The construction of the cathedral itself started later in 1977.

An artist from Mexico was commissioned to design the mosaic tiles, fiberglass and iron works for various parts of the cathedral, such as the mural above the tabernacle, side windows, baptistery, walls of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Way of the Cross.

The main cathedral has the capacity of accommodating 1,200 people on the ground while 250 more seats are placed on the balcony. The interior of the cathedral is column-free and the building committee has paid special attention to aspects such as its acoustics, ventilation and lighting. It has a 130-feet high concrete bell tower which was completed in November 1981. Another outstanding feature of the cathedral is a baptismal pool in the shape of a cross.

- a St. Francis Xavier's Church, Melaka
- b Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral, Sabah
- c St. Michael's Church, Sabah
- d St. Paul's Church, Melaka
- e St. Thomas Cathedral, Sarawak

ST. THOMAS'S CATHEDRAL



The St. Michael's Church in Penampang is the state's oldest church. The foundation stone for the church was laid in September 1936, which coincided with the Feast of St. Michael.

Solid rocks which were dynamited, cut and shaped were used to build the church. The construction was halted during World War II, but was resumed in 1947 and completed two years later.

The church is located on top of a hill; about 15 minutes drive from Kota Kinabalu city.

Sarawak

The history of St. Thomas Cathedral in Kuching dates back to 1848 when the first Anglican missionary, Reverend Francis Thomas McDougall, priest and doctor, came to Sarawak. He was invited by Sir James Brooke, the first Rajah of Sarawak.

The Church compound, which was originally a jungle-clad hill, was bestowed by the Rajah in 1849. On this site, Dr. McDougall began the construction of a fine wooden church capable of accommodating 250 people.

In 1851, the consecration ceremony of the church was performed by Bishop Wilson of Calcutta. The foundation stone for the present cathedral was laid on 15th October 1953 by the Duchess of Kent and the building was completed by May the following year.

Festivals

Easter Sunday is celebrated in conjunction with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Masses are held in churches throughout the country. Some hotels organise special brunch and hi-tea for their patrons. To add to the fun, activities such as Easter egg-hunting, egg-painting and egg spoon-race are also organised, much to the delight of the children.

Do's & Dont's

Visiting a Church

Mass is usually held on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. Services are held in English, Chinese, Tamil or other local dialects.

Visitors are welcome to the church, but please obtain permission from the church's office before entering.

Photography is permitted, but ask for permission first.

Visitors are advised to dress appropriately.

Please observe respectful silence and note that disruptive behaviour is strongly discouraged.

For a leisurely visit, visitors can arrange their trip on weekdays.



STATELY SIKH TEMPLES



SIKH GURDWARAS REFLECT GRANDEUR AND SUBTLE CHARM

Sikhism is the youngest of the world religions; it is barely 500 years old. Most members of the Sikh community in Malaysia came to this country during the British era to serve in the police force.

The word Sikh comes from the Sanskrit word *shishya* which means disciple. Every Sikh child is tutored in the Punjabi language and therefore is able to understand the teachings of the *Guru Granth Sahib*, the Holy Book of the Sikhs.

Sikhism has five symbols which are vital to the strength and unity of the religion. All Sikhs are to have *Kesh* (unshorn hair as a symbol of holiness), *Kirpan* (a ceremonial sword as an emblem of courage), *Kara* (a steel bracelet to symbolise strength and integrity), *Kanga* (a comb to symbolise cleanliness and order) and *Kachhera* (an undergarment that symbolises self-control and chastity). One of the most widely recognised symbols of the Sikh faith is the turban, worn by men.

The Sikh place of worship is known as a *Gurdwara* which means 'the house of God'. In Sikhism, congregational prayer is as important as individual prayer.

An advisory body called The Malaysian Gurdwaras Council was formed in 1988. It serves as a platform to promote the religious, cultural, social, educational and economical interests of the Sikh community.

Festivals

The main festival for the Sikh community is the New Year, called 'Vasakhi'. It is celebrated to herald happiness and is associated with the harvest season. Traditionally, the celebration involves prayers at home and in the temples, and devotees observe a vegetarian diet. 'Bhangra' (a traditional dance) and 'gatka' (Sikh martial arts) are also performed during the celebrations.



Gurdwara Sahib, Johor



- a Gurdwara Sahib, Johor
- b Traditional dance
- c Praying hall in a Sikh temple
- d Gurdwara Sahib, Negeri Sembilan

The distinctive features of a *gurdwara* include a flagpole outside the building, called a *nishan sahib*. It flies a triangular flag with the Sikh insignia; a calligraphic symbol created from two Punjabi letters which means “God is the eternal reality”. Some *gurdwaras* have domes.

Another characteristic symbol of a *gurdwara* is the Sikh symbol at the entrance and at the apex of the roof. This symbol is made up of a double-edged sword surrounded by a wheel - the former symbolises spiritual values and divine justice while the latter indicates the oneness of God.

Flanking the wheel are two daggers representing the temporal, secular and spiritual powers. The Sikhs believe and worship the one and only God who is formless. Hence, idol worship is denounced by the Sikh scriptures.

A *gurdwara* is divided into several areas, such as the *sachkhand* (the holiest room where the scriptures are housed during the night), the *darbar* or main hall and the *langgar* hall where meals are prepared and served.

Occupying an important spot in the *gurdwara* is the *Guru Granth Sahib*, which is placed on a dais that generally faces the entrance. The holy book is highly revered and is covered with a *romalla* (silk cloth) when not in use.

There are more than 100 *gurdwaras* throughout Malaysia. Perak has the highest number of *gurdwaras*, which amounts to more than thirty while Selangor has nineteen. Kuala Lumpur has eleven, Pahang has seven, Negeri Sembilan and Johor have six each. The states of Sabah and Sarawak however, have a smaller number of *gurdwaras*.

Kuala Lumpur

One famous *gurdwara* in the capital city is the Tatt Khalsa Diwan. Located at the heart of Kampung Baru, it is one of the city's more discreet attractions. The facade of the *gurdwara* is inspired by the timeless architecture of the Golden Temple of Amritsar in India. It houses the largest, and possibly one of the finest, prayer halls in Southeast Asia.

Negeri Sembilan

The Gurdwara Sahib Seremban located at Jalan Yam Tuan, Seremban, is not only visited by the Sikh community, but also tourists. As it is situated beside other places of worship, visitors here will also be able to see a mosque, a church, a Hindu temple and a Buddhist temple, all within walking distance. The Gurdwara Sahib in Mantin is one of the busiest *gurdwaras* during Sikh festivals.

Johor

Situated right at the heart of Johor Bahru is the elegant Gurdwara Sahib Johor Bahru. It was originally an old timber structure built about 90 years ago. This *gurdwara* was later rebuilt in the 1960s. The Gurdwara Sahib Johor Bahru was founded by Sikh policemen. Other *gurdwaras* in the state are situated in Batu Pahat, Pontian, Segamat and Muar.

Festivals

Sikh celebrations include birthdays of the Sikh Gurus, installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, 'Nam Karan' (naming of a child), 'Amrit Sanskar' (Baptism) and 'Akhand Path' (the non-stop cover-to-cover reading of Sri Guru Granth Sahib to commemorate any joyous occasion or in times of hardship). Some of these celebrations last for days.

Do's & Dont's

Visiting a Sikh Temple

Sikhism is an egalitarian religion and everyone is welcomed to enter the temple.

Visitors are advised to dress modestly. Ladies are required to cover their heads.

Visitors must remove their shoes before entering.

Do note that the seating area is separated by gender.



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MALAYSIA

AT A GLANCE

COUNTRY

The Federation of Malaysia comprises Peninsular Malaysia which is made up of 11 states, three Federal Territories as well as the states of Sabah and Sarawak situated in Borneo.

CAPITAL CITY

The capital city of Malaysia is Kuala Lumpur.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Located between 2 and 7 degrees north of the Equator, Peninsular Malaysia is separated from the states of Sabah and Sarawak by the South China Sea. To the north of Peninsular Malaysia is Thailand while its southern neighbour is Singapore. Sabah and Sarawak share a common border with Indonesia while Sarawak also shares a border with Brunei Darussalam.

AREA

329,758 sq km

POPULATION

27 million

PEOPLE

Malays make up about 57% of the population and are the predominant group with Chinese, Indians and other ethnic groups making up the rest.

LANGUAGE

Bahasa Malaysia (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken. Malaysians also speak various languages and dialects.

RELIGION

Islam is the official religion but all other religions are practised freely.

GOVERNMENT

Malaysia practices parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy. The Head of State is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Head of Government is the Prime Minister. The country has a bicameral legislative system.

CLIMATE

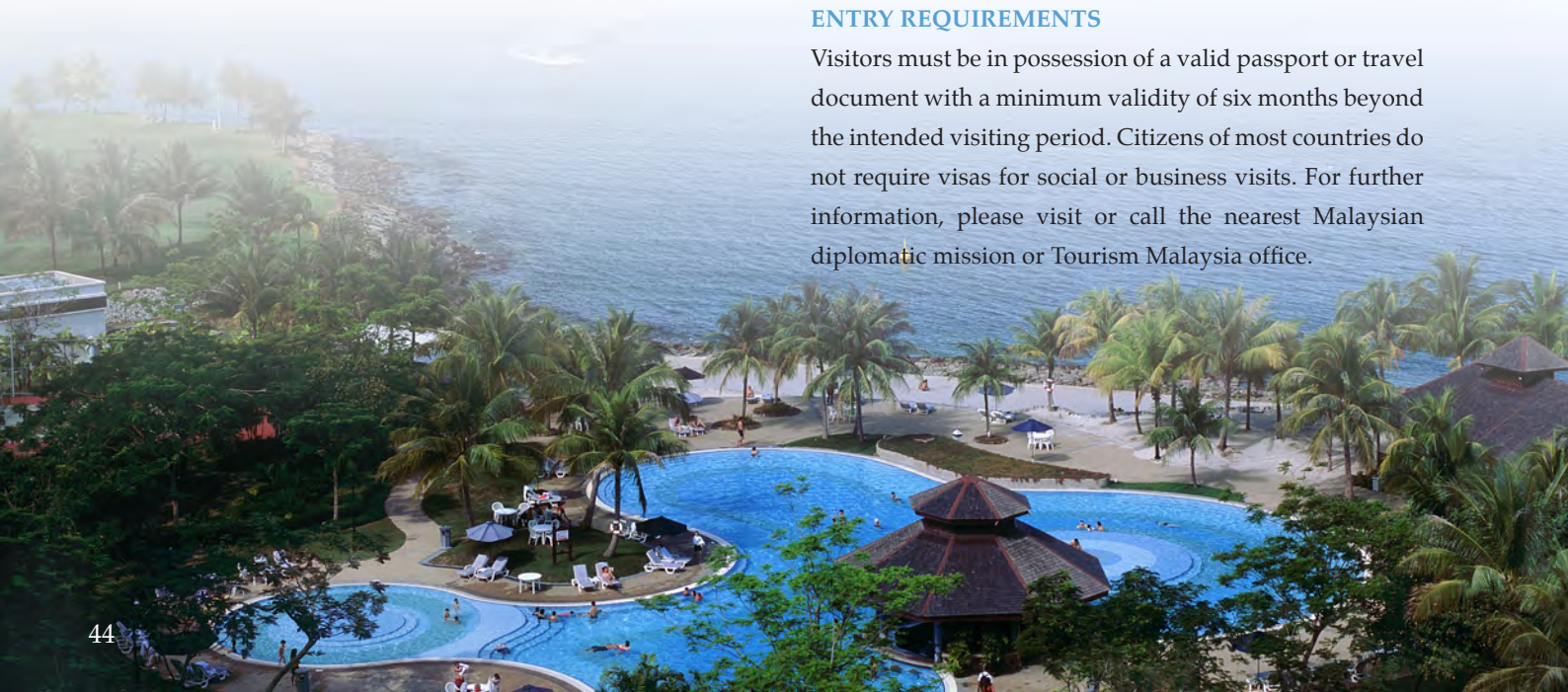
Malaysia has a tropical climate and the weather is warm all year around. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C and the annual rainfall varies from 2,000mm to 2,500mm.

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Manufacturing constitutes the largest component of Malaysia's economy while tourism and primary commodities such as petroleum, palm oil, natural rubber and timber are major contributors to its economy.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Visitors must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document with a minimum validity of six months beyond the intended visiting period. Citizens of most countries do not require visas for social or business visits. For further information, please visit or call the nearest Malaysian diplomatic mission or Tourism Malaysia office.



CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Malaysian Ringgit, which is indicated as RM. Foreign currencies can be converted at banks and money changers.

BANKING HOURS

In most states, banking hours are from 9.30am to 4.00pm from Monday to Friday. Banks in the states of Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu operate from 9.30am to 4.00pm from Saturday to Wednesday.

POST OFFICES

Most post offices are open from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily except on Sundays and public holidays. In Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, they are closed on Fridays and public holidays.

WORKING DAYS

Government offices in all states, with the exception of Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, operate on a five-day week from Monday to Friday. Some private establishments are open for half a day on Saturday. Government offices in Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu are open from Sunday to Thursday. They are closed on Friday and Saturday.

TIME

The standard Malaysian time is eight hours ahead of GMT and 16 hours ahead of the U.S. Pacific Standard Time.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage used throughout Malaysia is 220-240 volts AC, at 50 cycles per second. Standard 3-pin square plugs and sockets are used.

MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

Malaysia uses the metric system.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Malaysia is linked nationally and internationally by telephone, facsimile, telegraph and via the Internet. Most hotels provide International Direct Dial (IDD) telephone services.

GETTING TO MALAYSIA

The main gateway to Malaysia is through the new Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) at Sepang, which is located approximately 50km south of Kuala Lumpur. Other major international airports that serve as entry points are situated in Penang, Johor Bahru, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and the island of Langkawi. Malaysia has two Low Cost Carrier Terminals (LCCT), which are situated in Sepang and Kota Kinabalu.

Over 40 international airlines fly into the country while the national carrier, Malaysia Airlines, has a global network that spans six continents. It is complemented by the budget airline AirAsia. The main entry point by sea is at Port Klang, about 50km away from Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia is also accessible by rail and road from Singapore and Thailand.

GETTING AROUND

Malaysia has excellent domestic air links serviced by Malaysia Airlines and low-cost carriers such as AirAsia and Firefly. The country has a well-developed and efficient public transportation system served by buses, taxis as well as trains.

ACCOMMODATION

Malaysia has a wide range of accommodation with competitive rates. International star-rated hotels, beach resorts, chalets, youth hostels and timeshare apartments are just some of the types of accommodation available.



MAJOR PLACES OF WORSHIP IN MALAYSIA

MOSQUES

Wilayah Mosque

Jalan Khidmat Usaha, Off Jalan Duta, 50480 Kuala Lumpur

Jamek Mosque

Jalan Tun Perak, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

As-Syakirin Mosque

Lorong Binjai, 50450 Kuala Lumpur

National Mosque

Jalan Perdana, 50480 Kuala Lumpur

Putra Mosque

62502 Putrajaya

Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque

Jalan Persiaran Masjid Shah Alam, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor.

Sultan Alaeddin Mosque

Kg Bandar, Jugra, 42700 Banting, Selangor

Indian Muslim Mosque

No. 3, Jalan S. P. Seenivasagam, 30000 Ipoh, Perak

Ubudiah Mosque

Bukit Chandan, 33000 Kuala Kangsar, Perak

State Mosque

Jalan Bukit Gantang Wahab, 30000 Ipoh, Perak

Acheen Street Mosque

Jalan Lebuah Acheh, 11200 Penang

Kapitan Keling Mosque

Jalan Kapitan Kling, 10200 Penang

Penang State Mosque

Jalan Air Itam, 11400 Penang

Floating Mosque

Jalan Tanjung Bungah, 11200 Penang

Syed Alwi Mosque

Jalan Kangar, 01000 Kangar, Perlis

Arau Perlis State Mosque

Jalan Besar Kangar-Arau, 02600 Arau, Perlis

Zahir Mosque

Jalan Kampung Perak, 05100 Alor Setar, Kedah

Albukhary Mosque

Yayasan Albukhary, Jalan Langgar, 05460 Alor Setar, Kedah

Kampung Laut Mosque

Nilam Puri, 16210 Tumpat, Kelantan

Al-Muhammadiyah Mosque

Jalan Sultanah Zainab, 15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan

Kampung Langgar Mosque

Kampung Langgar, 15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan

Crystal Mosque

Pulau Wan Man, 21000 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu

Abidin Mosque

Jalan Masjid Abidin, 20100 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu

Tengku Tengah Zaharah Mosque

Teluk Ibai, 20100 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu

State Mosque

Jalan Dato' Hamzah, 70000 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan

Sultan Ahmad Shah 1 Mosque

Jalan Masjid, 25000 Kuantan, Pahang

Kampung Kling Mosque

Km 17, Jalan Tukang Emas, 75200 Melaka

Tengkeri Mosque

Km 2, Jalan Tengkeri, 75200 Melaka

Kg. Hulu Mosque

Jalan Masjid Kg. Hulu, 75200 Melaka

Sultan Ibrahim Jamek Mosque

Tanjung Agas, 84000 Muar, Johor

Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque

Jalan Gertak Merah, 80100 Johor Bahru, Johor

Kuching Mosque

Jalan Masjid, 93400 Kuching, Sarawak

An-Nur Jamek Mosque

W.D.T.16, 87000 Labuan, Sabah

CHINESE & BUDDHIST TEMPLES

Thean Hou Temple

65 Persiaran Endah, off Jalan Syed Putra, 50460 Kuala Lumpur

Sze Ya Temple

No. 14A, Jalan Lebuah Pudu, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

Chan See Shu Yuen Temple

No. 172, Jalan Petaling, 50000 Kuala Lumpur

Buddhist Maha Vihara Temple

123 Jalan Berhala, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur

Dong Zen Fo Guang Shan Temple

Jalan Sg. Buaya, 42600 Jenjarom, Kuala Langat, Selangor

Wat Chetawan

No.24, Jalan Pantai, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Perak Tong

Gunung Tasek, Jalan Kuala Kangsar, 31400 Ipoh, Perak

Sam Poh Tong Temple

Gunung Rapat, 31350 Ipoh, Perak

Kek Look Tong

Gunung Rapat, 31350 Ipoh, Perak

Kek Lok Si Temple

Jalan Air Itam, 10450 Penang

Han Jiang Ancestral Temple

Lebuh Chulia, 10200 Georgetown, Penang

Goddess of Mercy Temple

Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling, 10200 Penang

Dharmikarama Burmese Temple

Lorong Burmah, 10250 Pulau Tikus, Penang

Wat Chaiya Mangkalaram

Lorong Burmah, 10250 Pulau Tikus, Penang

Wat Nikrodharam

Jalan Teluk Wan Jah, 05200 Alor Setar, Kedah

Sweet Nyet Kong Temple

Kampung Pulau, 18300 Gua Musang, Kelantan

Wat Photivihan

Kampung Jambu, 16200 Tumpat, Kelantan

Wat Machimmaram

Kampung Bunuhan, Jubakar, 16200 Tumpat, Kelantan

Wat Mai Suwankhiri

Kampung Bukit Tanah, 16200 Tumpat, Kelantan

Wat Uttamaram

Kampung Tereseq, Repek, 17070 Pasir Mas, Kelantan

Ho Ann Kiong Temple

Jalan Chinatown, 20100 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu

Chin Swee Caves Temple

Genting Highlands, 69000 Pahang

Cheng Hoon Teng Temple

No. 25, Jalan To'kong, 75200 Melaka

Johor Old Chinese Temple

Jalan Trus, 80000 Johor Bahru, Johor

Puh Toh Tze Temple

Off Tuaran Road, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Puu Jih Shih Buddhist Temple

Tanah Merah, 90702 Sandakan, Sabah

Tua Pek Kong Temple

Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

Eng Ann Tua Pek Kong Temple

Temple Street, 96000 Sibul, Sarawak

San Ching Tian Taoist Temple

Krokop, 98000 Miri, Sarawak

HINDU TEMPLES

Sri Maha Mariamman Temple

No. 163, Jalan Tun H.S. Lee, 50000 Kuala Lumpur

Sri Kandaswamy Temple

Jalan Scott, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur

Kortu Malai Pillayar Temple

Jalan Pudu, 55100 Kuala Lumpur

Sri Moogambigai Temple

Jalan Lingkaran Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur

Batu Caves Sri Subramaniam Temple

Batu Caves, 68100 Gombak, Selangor

Sri Maha Mariamman Temple

Sungai Pari, 31000 Batu Gajah, Perak

Arulmigu Subramaniam Temple

No. 140, Jalan Raja Musa Aziz, 30300 Ipoh, Perak

Sri Maha Mariamman Temple

Lebuh Queen, 10200 Penang

Nattukottai Chettiar Temple

Jalan Air Terjun, 10350 Penang

Arulmigu Bala Thandayuthapani Temple

Jalan Air Terjun, 10350 Penang

Sri Bala Thandayuthapani Temple

139-A, Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan

Sri Maranthandhavar Temple

Km 100 Jalan Kuantan Jerantut, 26500 Maran, Pahang

Sri Poyyatha Sri Vinayagar Moorthi Temple

Jalan. Tukang Emas, 75200 Melaka

Sri Mariamman Temple

Jalan Ungku Puan, 80000 Johor Bahru, Johor

CHURCHES

Cathedral of St. Mary the Virgin

Jalan Raja, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

Lady of Lourdes Church

45 Jalan Silibin, 30100 Ipoh, Perak

St. John's Church

Jalan Gereja, 31100 Sungai Siput North, Perak

St. Anne's Sanctuary

Jalan Kulim, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Penang

St. George's Church

Lebuh Farquhar, 10200 Penang

Church of the Visitation

85-A Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan

Christ Church

Jalan Gereja, 75000 Melaka

St. Francis Xavier's Church

No.12, Jalan Bandar Kaba, 75000 Melaka

St. Paul's Church

Jalan Kota, 75000 Melaka

St. Peter's Church

Jalan Bendahara, 75100 Melaka

Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral Sabah

14B Jalan Menter, 88800 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

St. Michael's Church

Jalan Dakata, 89507 Penampang, Sabah

St. Thomas Cathedral Sarawak

Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

SIKH TEMPLES

Tat Khalsa Diwan

No. 24, Jalan Raja Alang, 50300 Kuala Lumpur

Gurdwara Sahib Negeri Sembilan

Jalan Yam Tuan, 70000 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan

Gurdwara Sahib

1B, Jalan Wong Ah Fook, 80000 Johor Bahru, Johor

Note: The above listing is not exhaustive. Visitors can contact the nearest Tourist Information Centre or Tourism Malaysia Office for more information.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

SELANGOR

Kuala Lumpur International Airport
International Arrival Hall
Kuala Lumpur International Airport
(KLIA)
64000 Sepang, Selangor
Tel: : 03-8776 5647 / 51
E-mail: ticklia@tourism.gov.my

Low Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT)
International Arrival Hall
Low Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT)
64000 Sepang, Selangor
Tel: 03-8777 6988
Fax: 03-8777 6989

KUALA LUMPUR

KL Sentral Station
Lot 21, 2nd Floor, Arrival Hall
Kuala Lumpur City Air Terminal
KL Sentral Station
50050 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-2272 5823
E-mail: ticklsentral@tourism.gov.my

Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTiC)
109 Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-9235 4848 / 4900
Fax: 03-2162 1149
E-mail: ticmtc@tourism.gov.my

Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC)
Level 2, Putra World Trade Centre
45 Jalan Tun Ismail
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-2615 8540
Fax: 03-2692 4554
E-mail: tic2@tourism.gov.my

PENANG

Penang International Airport
Tel: 04-643 0501
E-mail: mtpbpen@tourism.gov.my

Georgetown
No. 10, Jalan Tun Syed Sheh
Barakbah
10200 Georgetown
Penang
Tel: 04 262 0066 / 261 9067
Fax: 04 261 2802
E-mail: mtpbpen@tourism.gov.my

KEDAH

Bukit Kayu Hitam
Changlun, Bukit Kayu Hitam
06050 Kedah
Tel: 04-922 2078 / 1249
Fax: 04-922 1249
E-mail: mtpbbkh@tourism.gov.my

LANGKAWI

Langkawi International Airport
Tel: 04-955 7155
E-mail: mtpblgk@tourism.gov.my

Kuah
Jalan Persiaran Putra
07000 Kuah, Langkawi
Tel: 04-966 7789 / 9416
Fax: 04-966 7889
E-mail: mtpblgk@tourism.gov.my

MELAKA

Ayer Keroh
Lebuh Ayer Keroh
Hang Tuah Jaya
75450 Melaka
Tel: 06-232 4622 / 88
Fax: 06-232 4791

Banda Hilir

Menara Taming Sari
Jalan Merdeka, Banda Hilir
75000 Melaka
Tel: 06-283 6220 / 30
Fax: 06-283 6224

NEGERI SEMBILAN

R & R Mambau
Seremban-Port Dickson Highway
70300 Mambau
Negeri Sembilan
Tel: 06-672 2726

JOHOR

Tanjung Puteri
Tanjung Puteri Tour Bus Complex
80000 Tambak
Johor
Tel: 07-222 3592
E-mail: mtpbjhb@tourism.gov.my

PERAK

Lumut
Lumut Waterfront Tourism
Complex
Jalan Titi Panjang
32200 Lumut, Perak
Tel: 05-683 4057
Fax: 05-683 8443
E-mail: ticlumut@tourism.gov.my

TERENGGANU

Kuala Terengganu
Plaza Padang Negara, Kuala Ibai
20400 Kuala Terengganu
Terengganu
Tel: 09-617 3553
E-mail: mtpbkt@tourism.gov.my

Kemaman

Jalan Kuantan-Kemaman
Geliga, 20400 Kemaman
Terengganu
Tel: 09-868 7600
E-mail: mtpbkt@tourism.gov.my

SABAH

Kota Kinabalu
Terminal 2
Kota Kinabalu International
Airport
Jalan Lapangan Terbang Lama
88100 Tanjung Aru
Sabah
Tel: 088-447 075

LABUAN

Lot 4260
Jalan Dewan/Jalan Berjaya
87007 Labuan
Tel: 087-423 445
Fax: 087-423 446
E-mail: mtpblbu@tourism.gov.my

SARAWAK

Kuching
Kuching International Airport
Tel: 082-627 741 / 742
E-mail: mtpbkch@tourism.gov.my



Wat Machimmaram, Kelantan



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POW (English)
December 2011

(TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY)

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